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**VICTORY V VPL ALL-STARS
BUSHFIRE RELIEF MATCH**

**CLUB SPOTLIGHT ON
ESSENDON UNITED**

**FOOTBALL FOCUS ON
BERGER OSAGIE EDERARO**

Photo: Paul Muir

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FOOTBALL FOR FIRE RELIEF

Victory v VPL All-Stars, Olympic Park, Tues KO 7.30PM

Football will return to it's spiritual home in Victoria when the local footballing fraternity gathers to support those in need at FFV's Bushfire Appeal match.

When a VPL Select XI take on Melbourne Victory at Olympic Park Stadium tomorrow night, it will be to raise funds for the families affected by the bushfires which ravaged the state in February and March.

173 lives were lost in Australia's worst ever natural disaster in which over 2000 homes were destroyed, leaving more than 7000 people homeless.

In addition to the fixture's primary focus of support for bushfire victims, the clash serves as the Victory's first pre-season hit out in preparation for their 2009/10 A-League campaign, the squad having been back in training for a month.

It's also an opportunity for the stars of the VPL to test themselves against what is currently the best side in Australia's professional competition.

The coach of the VPL Select XI, Melbourne Knights manager Chris Taylor, said that he would take into account both the charitable nature of tomorrow night's event as well as his squads' eagerness to put one over the reigning A-League champions.

"Obviously the Bushfire Appeal is

the main thing, it's a fundraiser and it's important that we need to be supporting that," he said.

"But once the game starts we'll be concentrating on beating Melbourne Victory."

Taylor said that his men will be extra keen to make an impression given that most A-League squads haven't finalised their playing lists, this match giving them the perfect opportunity to show their wares to potential suitors.

"I'd like to think it's a case of putting players in the shop window for Melbourne Victory and other A-League clubs as well. This is a very good opportunity for the VPL players to show that they're capable of playing at the next level."

"I have spoken to Ernie Merrick to see if there is anyone he wants to look at in particular and the VPL clubs have made their own recommendations, but at the end of the day I have picked the squad."

Several members of the VPL Select side can expect to be looked at by A-League clubs looking to top up their lists before the upcoming season.

One player who already has several A-League clubs excited is 17 year old Jason Davidson of Hume City, son of Soccerroo legend Alan. The promising left-sided teenager is also a member of the Under 20 national squad, with his progression

into Australian football's professional ranks appearing to be a case of not if, but when.

Richmond's 22 year old defender Erhan Karahan, formerly of top Turkish outfit Sivasspor, has been a standout for the Eagles this season and is considered by many VPL observers to have what it takes to play in the national competition.

Hamlet Armenian of Dandenong Thunder has been a major reason behind his team's terrific start to the season and the exciting 22 year old winger was last year rated by Australian FourFourTwo magazine as one of the best 10 players in the country outside of the A-League.

Heidelberg Warriors Nigerian attacker Osagie Ederaro has lit up the VPL this season and currently shares the lead of the VPL's goalscorers charts. The 22 year old former youth international has pace and creativity in abundance to match his appetite for scoring.

And classy 19 year old attacking midfielder Mate Dugandzic of the Melbourne Knights, who spent last season at Croatian giants Dinamo Zagreb, is highly rated and may also be on the radar of scouts.

A celebrity match featuring he likes of Sam Kekovich, Victorian Sports Minister James Merlino and Shane Crawford will be the curtain raiser to the evening's main fixture.

FFV President Tony Dunkerley said he hoped the public would support the event.

"This event is obviously for a wonderful cause, but it will also be a wonderful spectacle," he said.

"We really hope people get along to the game to raise as much money as possible for the families and businesses that need it after the devastation of the recent Victorian bushfires.

"It's a great opportunity for the FFV and Melbourne Victory FC to join forces to help those in need."

FFV BUSHFIRE APPEAL MATCH

Tuesday 12th May,

Olympic Park Stadium

Celebrity match: KO 6pm

Melbourne Victory FC vs Victorian Select Men's XI: KO 7.30pm

VPL SELECT MEN'S SQUAD

P.Zois, S.Tilovski, R.Tavsancioglu, S. O'Dor, M.Grebesa, E.Karahan, J.Hingert, D.Tsiaris, J.Davidson, J.Youssef, F.Lagana, G.Hockless, M.Dugandzic, J.Nikolic, H.Armenian, O.Ederaro

By Chris Alois

Photos by Daniel Flis

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA BUSHFIRE APPEAL MATCH

TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2009

6PM CELEBRITY MATCH

7.30PM MELBOURNE VICTORY FC VS. VICTORIAN MEN'S

VENUE: OLYMPIC PARK STADIUM, OLYMPIC BLVD, MELBOURNE

COST: \$15 ADULTS, \$10 CONCESSION, \$5 UNDER 14 YRS,
KIDS UNDER 4 FREE



This match is in conjunction with Melbourne Victory Football Club and Melbourne Olympic Parks Trust and is to raise funds for the Victorian Bushfire affected families.

MELBOURNE OLYMPIC PARKS



All for a good cause: Come watch the VPL's Jason Davidson mix it against the Victory.

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Front Cover

Essendon United President Spiro Thallasino with former Socceroo Con Boutsianis, prior to the 1-1 draw with Elwood city on Saturday.



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VPL CLUBS TAKE A STAND

Submission Made of No-Confidence

10 of the 12 VPL clubs are set to ask the State Government to intervene on their behalf after demanding that FFV address numerous issues they have with the Federation's management of the sport, outlined in an email sent to FFV President Tony Dunkerley last week.

The 10 clubs met on April 22, resolving to put their concerns in writing.

The email - sent by Men's Standing Committee chairman Aki Ionnas on behalf of the 10 clubs - is still without a response a fortnight after being received by FFV.

"The FFV were initially requested to respond within 7 days, but the clubs then gave them until 5pm on Wednesday (5 May)," Ionnas said.

"There has still been no response."

One of the submissions made was that a motion of no-confidence in FFV CEO Mark Rendell had been passed by the clubs attending the meeting.

The clubs other resolutions and submissions included:

- That the 10 clubs "vehemently oppose" the creation of a new Men's Summer League;

- That they refuse to meet with FFV's appointed consultant to review the VPL, former Cricket Victoria CEO Ken Jacobs;

- That all VPL club names and logos are retained;

- That FFV increase their promotional and marketing commitment to the VPL;

- That the Federation clarify the rights and obligations of VPL clubs;

- A request for an urgent meeting with the FFV Board.

FFV CEO Mark Rendell declined to comment regarding the clubs' no-confidence motion, but said in a statement made to Goal!Weekly yesterday that the clubs' concerns were being dealt with as part of FFV's review of the VPL and that he wanted the clubs to participate in that process.

"The issues raised in relation to the Victorian Men's Premier League are being addressed in the immediate instance through an independent and comprehensive review of the semi professional leagues in Victoria.

"The review is being undertaken by consultant Ken Jacobs, who has been appointed by the FFV, and aims to ensure that all issues from all relevant representatives of semi professional leagues in Victoria are captured and clearly represented.

"This process has been embraced by all other representatives of the sport, including the State League One Clubs, and the feedback from participants have been extremely positive in that the sessions have provided a positive and productive forum in which to table all issues.

"We value the feedback of the Victorian Men's Premier League, and on behalf of the Board I can reassure you that the review, which is to be finalised by Mid May, will be presented to the FFV Board as a completely independent report.

"Therefore, as the expressed views of the Victorian Men's Premier League will form



Chairman of the Men's Standing Committee, Aki Ionnas.

an important part of the final report, I urge the clubs once again to adhere to the process in place and meet with Ken Jacobs so the issues raised can be accurately captured and presented to the Board for its review and action.

"The review of the semi professional leagues in Victoria aims to assist the FFV in developing strategies to make the leagues strong, viable and self sustaining, and the input from the Victorian Men's Premier League will assist in bringing about positive change and growth across our Premier competitions."

Mr Ionnas said that while the club's didn't object in principle to a review of the VPL, the clubs' believed the Men's Standing Committee should conduct any review of the competition.

"It's nothing personal against Ken Jacobs. The 10 clubs believe that the Men's Standing Committee should be doing the review of the league. They believe that that is the committee's role."

"I'll also be meeting with the State League clubs shortly to discuss the issues. Only four of the State League 1 clubs have met with Ken Jacobs to discuss the FFV's review.

The committee is elected every two years by the clubs to represent their interests to the FFV Board, it's role clearly specified under FFV by-laws; to advise and make recommendations to the Board and CEO on matters relating to FFV's Men's competition.

"Under the FFV Constitution, the Men's Standing Committee is there for the clubs and should be respected by the FFV," said Ionnas

"I've spoken to all 6 Men's Standing Committee members and all of them have agreed with the resolutions passed by the 10 clubs," he added.

The two VPL sides that did not attend the April 22 meeting of the clubs were South Melbourne and Green Gully.

Goal!Weekly contacted Gully president

Charlie Farrugia, who declined to comment on the matter.

And whilst not in attendance at the meeting nor a signatory to the motion, South Melbourne FC did agree to make a statement to Goal!Weekly regarding the issues raised.

South Melbourne secretary George Koukoulas said "South Melbourne FC is committed to an improved Victorian Premier League which will enhance all club's abilities to attract patrons and sponsors. We believe that the season should switch to summer as we have experienced first hand, from our days in the NSL, the benefits of playing in the warmer months. It is important that there is a fair and transparent plan for the future of the VPL and that all clubs in Victoria can aspire to be a part of given they meet criteria which needs to be set by the VPL and current clubs.

"The FFV proposed Summer League model, although well intentioned, requires a lot more work to ensure that it can have any chance of being successful. It is vital that current clubs both at Premier league and State 1 level be properly consulted and used as an initial base for any revamped league. Properly resourced and given the importance and relevance it deserves, the VPL has the potential to be the best second tier competition of any code in Australia if adequately marketed and promoted."

Mr Ionnas also said that the 10 clubs behind the letter felt strongly enough about the issues to take the matter to the State Government.

"The clubs are adamant that they want to take it to the Minister for Sport because they're getting no answers," he said

According to Ionnas, the clubs are keen to avoid having to appeal to the State Government for help, saying they want to collaborate with FFV and help shape the future direction of the VPL.

"The clubs are happy to work together with FFV in the best interests of the game, but clubs want to be heard. They want their opinions to be taken into account. It's been two weeks since the clubs have asked for this letter to be sent to FFV, and they've heard nothing back. What does that say to you? The perception out there is that they (FFV) don't care."

Ionnas said the 10 clubs wanted the FFV to provide the local competition with adequate marketing and promotional support and match the clubs' own efforts to promote the VPL.

"A lot of help needs to come from FFV to further promote the VPL. Running clubs is voluntary. I see committee members and board members going out of their way in their own time to try and run a football club and do whatever they can to promote their clubs.

"I've been to a lot of clubs and I've seen them advertising, going to schools to give free passes, clinics and flyers," he added.

"The FFV need to get together with the clubs and just ask one question which they haven't asked yet,

"How can we help you?"



VPL STANDINGS



	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Thunder	10	8	2	0	17	6	26
South Melbourne	10	6	2	2	21	8	20
Heidelberg Utd	10	6	2	2	19	7	20
Altona Magic	10	5	2	3	11	10	17
Richmond	10	4	3	3	14	10	15
Green Gully Cavaliers	10	4	3	3	11	9	15
Oakleigh Cannons	10	4	2	4	11	7	14
Sunshine Georgies	10	4	2	4	7	9	14
Hume City	10	4	1	5	16	10	13
Melbourne Knights	10	3	2	5	10	12	11
Whittlesea Zebras	10	0	2	8	3	16	2
Preston Lions	10	0	1	9	3	39	1



VPL 10 RESULTS

- Richmond Eagles 0
- Hume City 1
(Z Petrevski)
- Green Gully 1
(A Vargas)
- Oakleigh Cannons 2
(J Karpeh 2)
- Sunshine Georgies 0
- Whittlesea Zebras 0
- Melbourne Knights 2
(FM Lagana 2)
- Dandenong Thunder 2
(J Di Iorio 2)
- Preston Lions 0



ANDREW FISHER'S KISS OF DEATH - Round 10



Richmond Eagles v
Green Gully
Fri 15th May, 8:30pm
Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Richmond has sent out a search party to find their form that has gone missing in the past month. Consecutive losses at home have seen them drop rapidly down the ladder and clinging onto a finals position. The Cavaliers haven't fared much better, who are finding it difficult to string two good games together. Six points match here as both teams are locked on 15 points. Tough to call. **DRAW**

Last 5 Meetings: Gully 3-2 Rich (2008), Rich 2-0 Gully (2008), Gully 1-0 Rich (2007), Rich 2-2 Gully (2007), Rich 4-3 Gully (2006).



Altona Magic v
Melbourne Knights
Sat 16th May, 7:30pm,
Paisley Park

Last years Grand Finalists couldn't be more off the pace this season. Both teams have lacked the consistency that saw them reach last seasons final. Altona have been in better form then the Knights, and will start the match as favourites. The Knights were minutes away from inflicting Dandenong's first loss, and have been showing glimpses of the form from last season. Will be a close game. **DRAW** Last 5 Meetings: Alt 1-0 Knights (2008 Final), Knights 1-1 Alt (2008 Finals), Alt 2-2 Knights (2008), Knights 1-1 Alt (2008), Knights 1-0 Alt (2007).



Oakleigh Cannons v
Hume City
Fri 15th May, 8:30pm
Jack Edwards Reserve.

Oakleigh and Hume kept in touch with the final five, after securing important wins this week. Only one point separates the sides before kick-off, with Hume City looking to record their first ever win against the Cannons. Oakleigh look to have finally hit their straps, and at home should be to strong. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Oak 2-1 Hume (2008), Hume 0-1 Oak (2008), Hume 1-1 Oak (2003), Oak 3-3 Hume (2003), DNP



Sunshine Georgies v
South Melbourne
Sun 17th May, 3:00pm
Chaplin Reserve

Sunshine welcome the red hot South Melbourne side at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday afternoon, looking to continue their streak of being South's bogey side. Sunshine at home is always a tough task, and South Melbourne will need to bring their 'A' game if they are going to come away with a win. Form says South by a goal. **AWAY WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: South 0-2 Sun (2007), Sun 0-2 South (2007), South 1-1 Sun (2006), Sun 1-0 South (2006), Sun 0-0 South (2005).



Dandenong Thunder v
Heidelberg United
Sat 16th May, 7:00pm
George Andrews Res

No doubt about this being the match of the round. The Thunder and Heidelberg will meet in a Saturday blockbuster at George Andrews Reserve. Dandenong have been setting the pace so far this year, but face a stern test against the Berger's. Heidelberg are coming off a massive 7-0 victory and will fancy thier chances. Heidelberg to inflict the first loss on Dandy. **AWAY WIN** Last 5 Meetings: Heid 1-1 Dand (2004), Dand 0-4 Heid (2004), Heid 1-3 Dand (2003), Dand 2-0 Heid (2003), Heid 5-0 Dand (2001)



Whittlesea Zebras v
Preston Lions
Sun 17th May, 3:00pm
Epping Stadium

Preston's VPL season looks all but over. Another humiliating home defeat will have shattered any confidence the fans and players had of a miracle survival. Despite Whittlesea partnering Preston at the foot of the table with only 1 point separating the sides, the gap between the quality of teams is far wider. **HOME WIN** Last 5 Meetings: Whitt 4-0 Prest (2008), Prest 1-1 Whitt (2008), Whitt 1-3 Prest (2007 Final), Prest 1-2 Whitt (2007 Finals), Whitt 1-1 Prest (2007).



The Victorian
Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm



BEST BET

For those who like a flutter on the English betting sites, this week's outside bet is Heidelberg to upset Thunder. This week's safe bet: Whittlesea to thump Preston. Remember bet responsibly.



VPL UNDER 21 DETAILS

Richmond 1 Hume City 1, Green Gully Cavaliers 3 Oakleigh Cannons 2, Melbourne Knights 0 Dandenong Thunder 1, Sunshine Georgies 1 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Preston Lions 1 Heidelberg Utd 3, South Melbourne 1 Altona Magic 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	11	7	2	2	17	12	23
Heidelberg Utd	11	6	2	3	17	13	20
Sunshine Georgies	10	5	3	2	23	11	18
Richmond	11	5	2	4	20	14	17
South Melbourne	10	5	2	3	15	10	17
Melbourne Knights	11	5	1	5	12	14	16
Whittlesea Zebras	10	4	2	4	18	13	14
Oakleigh Cannons	10	4	1	5	16	22	13
V.I.S	7	4	0	3	14	14	12
Altona Magic	10	3	3	4	11	12	12
Hume City	11	4	1	6	17	21	10
Preston Lions	11	3	0	8	13	23	9
Dandenong Thunder	11	2	1	8	11	25	7

KARPEH CARPETS GULLY

Cannons Fire Back Into Finals Contention



GREEN GULLY
CAVALIERS

1 - 2

OAKLEIGH
CANNONS



Gully supporters, players, officials and coaching staff were all understandably disappointed. However, Gully played entertaining football as did the Oakleigh Cannons who won by two goals to one.

Gully must now move on and focus on this Friday's game against Richmond.

Captain Dean Fak wasted no energy in dwelling on the loss and spoke only of the Friday's upcoming match away to Richmond Eagles. "This Friday is the halfway mark, and a win at Richmond could be a season turning point."

Oakleigh took an early lead at Green Gully Reserve, the Cannons broke free on the left wing and Jerry Karpeh tapped home an easy effort as Gully defenders appeared to be waiting for an offside call. Jerry Karpeh actually put his hands on his head after scoring the goal, possibly thinking he may have run offside himself, but the goal stood and Gully had their work cut out to get back into

the match.

The Cavaliers responded positively after falling behind. A lot of responsibility fell on the shoulders of young Diogo Ferreira in midfield, covering for the suspended Jeffrey Fleming, who will be missing for the another three games. Diogo became more and more dominant as a ball winner as the game went on, and outside of finishing with a bit more conviction is looking the goods in the Green Gully midfield.

One player who could offer some advice in the finishing department is Andy Vargas. Kristijan Ivesic set up Andy Vargas on the half hour, and Vargas gave Adrian Cagalj no chance in the Cannons goal, with his brilliant strike on goal, gaining parity for the home team.

In the second half the Cannons came out of the halftime break with purpose and Jerry Karpeh scored perhaps the most impressive strike from long range this season in the VPL. Karpeh took down the long ball

forward, turned to face goal and buried his strike in the process. As deadly a finish as one has seen in the VPL. The Cavaliers again were looking for an equaliser, which almost came ten minutes from time, when Steve Burton fired on the Cannon's goal, Adrian Cagalj's partial save pushed the ball onto the Oakleigh Cannons goalpost and out of harm's way.

In form defender Kole Delev, no doubt somewhat deflated, was equally optimistic with next weekend's game at Richmond. "It just hasn't fallen our way so far this season. We just need some luck."

In the Under 21's, Gully hung on for their second consecutive 3-2 win in as many weeks, to stay on top of the Under 21's standings.

Green Gully:

#23 Steven Tilovski, #2 Kristijan Ivesic, #3 Steven Burton, #4 Dean Fak, #6 Kole Delev, #11 Pablo Cardozo, #12 Matthew

Sanders, #16 Mile Medjedovic, #17 Andy Vargas, #18 Joel Nikolic, #19 Diogo Ferreira

Subs:

#00 Patric Ndongo, #5 Cameron Drake, #8 Aziz Behich, #10 John Adam, #9 Daniel White

Oakleigh Cannons:

#1 Adrian Cagalj, #5 Felix Rosman, #6 Stelios Drakos, #8 Bonel Obradovic, #13 Billy Damianos, #14 Jerry Karpeh, #20 Aristidis Drakos, #25 Scott Webster, #21 Dario Matkovic, #11 Juan Nilo, #17 Ivan Franjic

Subs:

#15 Stephen Hatzikostas, #23 Srdjan Stefanovic, #22 Ramsly Nasser, #7 Trent Waterson, #12 Milos Lujic

By Markian Jaworsky

Photos by Steve Starek



Oakleigh's Jerry Karpeh makes the most of his chance in front of goal.



Man of the moment: Jerry Karpeh on his way to a brace and putting the Cannons' title aspirations back on track.

EAGLES HIT HUME HIGHWAY

Ziggy Winner Costs Eagles Top Five Spot



**RICHMOND
EAGLES**

0 - 1

**HUME
CITY**



The Eagles hosted Hume City on Friday night in a game pitting two sides down on their best form.

Richmond had snatched a late draw at Heidelberg to remain in the Top Five, but were having to back up just four nights later. Hume's form had seen them just part with coach Goran Lozanovski, and comprised of two losses since a regulation defeat of struggling Preston Lions. The home side went into the game missing Terry Antoniadis, who came off injured at half time at Olympic Village. City would be buoyed by the return of new coach Andy Vlahos and Tony Sterjovski to the starting line-up.

Richmond began promisingly enough, skipper Stuart McCluskey chipping a shot over the crossbar four minutes into the game after a cutback from Richie Cardozo making a run into the box from a short corner.

The home side should have taken the lead after twelve minutes, a counter attack initiated by Dimitri Tsiaras producing two glorious chances. He carried the ball through the middle and sent it forward to Michael Catalano, who crossed from right to left to pick out Nick Robinson who thundered a shot into the post. The rebound fell

to Tsiaras, who shot over the crossbar with the ball bouncing a little awkwardly ahead of him.

A ball up the line from Danny Black provided Catalano with another chance to cross four minutes later, Lou Acevski saving the resulting header from Tsiaras. Hume looked to create a promising opening two minutes later, but the header from Andy Vlahos from Zoran Petrevski's cross struck the covering Catalano and was cleared.

A low drive from Tom Milardovic when a free-kick was only partially cleared saw Acevski forced into a brilliant save, the offside flag raised when the rebound was put wide. Petrevski appeared offside when put through on the right five minutes later, before shooting wide. Just before the break a Cardozo free-kick from twenty-two yards was comfortably saved by Acevski, leaving the match scoreless at the interval.

It was only three minutes into the second half that the scoreboard operator was finally called into action. A free-kick from Tony Sterjovski from the right, just outside the penalty area, was met by the head of Petrevski. Though Peter Zois managed to get a hand to the ball he was unable to push it anywhere other than the top corner of the goal as Hume City took the lead.

Tsiaras headed over a Cardozo corner-kick in the fifty-sixth minute, but attacks from Richmond were becoming less frequent as Hume began to assume control of the game.

Sterjovski was constantly threatening on the left and Petrevski was proving a handful upfront.

Tensions flared between Jonathan Munoz and Erhran Karahan in the seventy-fifth minute, with the pair having to pulled apart when confronting each other behind play. Two minutes later Munoz went through Karahan with a tackle and was booked by referee Bruno D'Aniello. Four minutes after that Karahan did likewise to pick up his yellow card. In between the bookings a Karahan header at a free-kick had been blocked into the path of Robinson who shot wide after turning in the crowded penalty area.

Player/Coach Vlahos made way for Caner Ucarli with ten minutes left and would have been delighted to see his team coast to it's fourth win of the season. Next week, in the third of four consecutive away games, they will travel to Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday to face the Oakleigh Cannons. Richmond will attempt to re-ignite their season when hosting Green Gully at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on the same night.

Richmond: P.Zois, D.Black (N.Kalambokis 67'), E.Karahan, S.McCluskey, D.Tsiaras, R.Cardozo, M.Catalano (J.Heineke 84'), T.Milardovic, L.Kindtner, N.Robinson, A.Viola.

Yellow Card: Karahan 81'

Red Cards: None

Hume City: L.Acevski, J.Davidson, I.Erdogan, T.Sterjovski (D.Nastevski 90'), T.Baser, R.Thompson, B.Beni, J.Munoz, A.Opazo (N.Harry), Z.Petrevski, A.Vlahos (C.Ucarli 80').

Goal: Petrevski 48'

Yellow Cards: Davidson 67' Sterjovski 71' Munoz 77'

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match:

Tony Sterjovski (Hume City)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Crowd: 350

By Mark Boric

Photos by Peter Psarros



Action from Keven Bartlett Reserve on Friday night.



Hume player-coach, Andy Vlahos, notches his first win under his belt.

BAYSWATER INDOOR SOCCER CENTRE

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THUNDER STRIKES BACK

Knights Blow Two Goal Lead



MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

2 - 2

DANDENONG
THUNDER



The Melbourne Knights and Dandenong Thunder have played out a classic 2-2 draw on Sunday afternoon at Mansion Stadium.

Against all odds the Knights blew Dandenong out of the water in the first half leading 2-0, but the league leaders pegged the Knights back in the dying minutes to salvage a draw thanks to veteran striker Joey Di Iorio.

It was the Knights who surprisingly burst out of the blocks in the first half, within the opening ten minutes the Knights created numerous chances, the best being from a long throw from Grbesa that took a deflection off Groenewald and required a finger-tip save from Webster in the Dandenong goal.

The home side deservedly took the lead in the 13th minute. Liam Cannell delivered a pin point cross to Frankie Lagana who steered his header past Webster and into the back of the net.

With their tails up the Knights continued to press forward, Mate Dugandzic released Greg Draper behind the defence with Webster quickly off his line to clear the danger. Dugandzic again set up Draper who blazed over the bar just before the break.

Just on the stroke of half-time the Knights doubled their advantage. Sherman won possession and released Draper on the counter attack, Draper remained composed and had the vision to spot Lagana unmarked at the back post for the easy tap-in and sending the home fans into raptures. Draper almost got in on the act only seconds later when a long ball released him into space, his chip over Webster landing on the roof of the net.

The Knights received a standing ovation coming off at half time, showing glimpses of the form from last season that saw them reach the Final, but they must have left that form in the change rooms for the second half, as Dandenong responded almost im-

mediately.

Davidson sent in an inch perfect cross that was met by Di Iorio giving the visitors the perfect start to the 2nd half. Minutes later Rexhepi found himself unmarked from a corner, but couldn't find the target from his header.

The Knights weathered the early pressure, and had chances to put the game to bed. Within two minutes Groenewald and substitute Hatzimouratis spurned glorious chances to seal the game.

Dandenong under threat of losing its first match of the season, continued to press forward but were met with a resilient Knights defence. But just as the Knights looked to have done enough, a miscued clearance fell to Armenian in the box, the winger squared the ball across goal and found Di Iorio at the back post for the simple finish that send the travelling supporters into delirium.

Groenewald spurned a last minute chance

to make himself a hero, as both sides had to be content with a share of the spoils. The Knights perhaps the more frustrated after giving up a two goal lead. Next week league leaders Dandenong Thunder host Heidelberg in the match of the round, where as the Knights will travel to Paisley park to take on Altona Magic in a replay of last season's Grand Final.

MATCH STATS:

SHOTS: MK 12 DT 10

TARGET: MK 5 DT 3

CORNERS: MK 4 DT 10

Melb Knights Line Up: Ozdemir, Cumming, Fitzgerald, Grbesa, Sherman (Frankie 92'), Elvin, Lagana, Dugandzic, Groenewald, Draper (Hatzimouratis 58').

Goals: Lagana 13', 45'.

Yellow Cards: Draper 38', Cannell 56', Ozdemir 64', Lagana 82'.

Red Cards: None

Dandenong Line Up: Webster, Hingert, Stergiopoulos, Osman, Armenian, Bailey, Korcarevski, Di Iorio (Vahid 92'), Thomas (Quirk 62'), Rexhepi, Davidson.

Goals: Di Iorio 50', 84'.

Yellow Cards: Stergiopoulos 42', Davidson 73', Rexhepi 88'

Red Cards: None

MoM: Frankie Lagana (MK)

Crowd: Approx 1500 @ Mansion Stadium



Thunderstorm: The Knights goal is under siege as the ball hits Savas Ozdemir's crossbar.

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by Daniel Flis

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BLUES ROLL CONTINUES

South Extends Unbeaten Run To Eight Games



SOUTH
MELBOURNE

2 - 0

ALTONA
MAGIC



South Melbourne has extended its unbeaten run to 8 games after defeating reigning champions Altona Magic 2-0 at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

Both teams came into the contest on 17 competition points, with the knowledge that a win would see them sit comfortably in equal second on the table by the end of the round.

South came into the game without veteran Vaughan Coveny who missed the critical match, whilst Altona were missing the experienced Steven Laurie.

The game started off in a fairly timid manner, with the first chance on goal coming in the 8th minute when a Steven O'Dor header was directed into the arms of custodian Bojo Jedvdjevic.

The home side continued to pepper the Altona goal face and once again had an opportunity to take the lead in the 12th minute, when some lovely interplay at the corner of the area culminated in Fernando hitting a powerful shot inches wide of the target.

South were dominating proceedings and almost had the opener again through a long range attempt by Fernando. In an unlucky piece of play, he carved his way into an opening just outside the area before hitting another hard shot onto the target with goalkeeper Jedvdjevic once again making the critical catch.

The Blues did hit the lead in the 31st minute when a lovely sweeping move forward found the feet of 4 South players, before Goran Zoric cut back the ball into the path of Gianni De Nittis. With the goal beckoning, De Nittis slammed the ball past the keeper to give his side a well deserved 1-0 advantage.

Altona's first opportunity for the opening half came in the 46th minute when a speculative long range attempt by Carl Recchia was fumbled by Tommi Tomich. The resultant rebound then found its way to the heavily marked Michael Curcija who opted to lay the ball back into the path of Recchia. With Tomich hurrying back into position, Recchia hit a disappointing drive wide of the target.

The second half continued in the same manner as the first with South Melbourne dominating the early stages.

The Blues only had to wait until the 55th minute to score its second goal, after De Nittis was fouled just outside the area. With the crowd urging the home team on, Fernando stepped up and hit a wonderful free kick to the back post, where it was met by the hard working Shane Nunes who managed to steer the ball into the back of the net.

South continued to bombard the Altona penalty area for the remaining half an hour without any real reward, with Goran Zoric and Fernando missing a plethora of half chances throughout the half.

The closest chance came in the 89th minute when the diminutive attacking player turned the Altona defence inside and out before hitting a cracking shot just wide of the target.

With the three points, South jump back into second place with a tricky away fixture next Sunday against Sunshine, whilst Altona must pick up the pieces as it hosts the Mel-

bourne Knights in what is looming as a must win game.

SMFC: Tommi Tomich, Shane Nunes, Rhodri Payne, Steven O'Dor, Gianni De Nittis, Joseph Youssef, Rama Tavsanoglu, Fernando De Moreas, Stiven Mrkela, Goran Zoric, Sebastian Petrovic

Altona Magic : Bojo Jedvdjevic, Doug Mladenovic, Con Anthopoulos, Carl Recchia, Michael Curcija, Pece Siveski, Kliment Taseski, Pece Cergovski, Phillip Riccobene, Stave Bozinovski, Nickolas Kalmar

Crowd
Approximately 600 at Bob Jane Stadium

Man of the Match
Shane Nunes

By George Kouroumalis

Photos by Kosta Deves



Goalmouth action as Bojo Jedvdjevic makes a save in the box.



South's Gianni De Nittis strokes the ball home to open the scoring.

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MENS & JUNIORS

MOTHER'S DAY MAULING

Warriors Wallop Lions



PRESTON
LIONS

0 - 7

HEIDELBERG
UNITED



Heidelberg United has inflicted the ninth defeat in ten games for Preston this season, with a crushing 7-0 scoreline at BT Connor Reserve this afternoon.

The final margin might actually have been greater but for some goalkeeping heroics by Preston's Damir Salcin & some wayward finishing by Heidelberg. The result entrenches Heidelberg's position in the top three & all but condemns Preston to relegation from the VPL, despite there being 12 games to go. The Lions are now 10 points plus goal difference away from hauling themselves to safety & it will take a monumental change of fortune for them to

avoid the drop.

The game was played in fine & sunny but cool conditions & a cursory glance at the starting line-ups showed a vast gap between the two sides in terms of experience & ability. However, the home team's inexperienced line-up did serve it up to their more fancied opponents in the first quarter of an hour. In the space of two minutes, the Lions' Bale Micovski might have opened the scoring, first with a shot just wide of the near post & then having been played through by Filipovic, his shot was well saved by Peter Gavalas in the Heidelberg goals.

Following this, Heidelberg's Ederaro twice was

failed by a heavy first touch as he was both times in good positions to open up the scoring. This was however, a portent of what was to come, as the visitors' edge in class began to take effect. The game's opening goal came after a neat one-two between Hockless & Magnacca allowed the 'Berger midfielder to shot home past Salcin to give Heidelberg the lead. Moments later, Preston's defence was breached again, but Ederaro's lob bounced back off the post to safety.

Micovski missed a chance to square the ledger on 33 minutes, blasting well over from 10 metres & Preston paid dearly for the miss, when just a minute later, Ederaro gave Heidelberg a 2-0 lead after shaking off his marker to slot home from close range. Ederaro made it 3-0 on 40 minutes after again losing his marker & being released by a Gasparis through ball & easily slotting past Salcin. Just three minutes later, Hockless found Ederaro on the left & the striker was able to return the favour to Gasparis by squaring the ball up to the latter, who had no difficulty in tapping in to give Heidelberg a 4-0 lead and effectively finish off the contest by half time.

The main interest of the second half was to see what the final tally would be for Heidelberg. In the 50th minute, Ederaro completed his hat-trick after again being played through & slotting past an exposed Salcin. Just five minutes later, a header from an unmarked Heidelberg skipper Ouliaris was acrobatically tipped wide by Salcin, but Jones made it 6-0 to Heidelberg from a back header from the resultant corner. Preston's Robert Dolevski had a shot well parried by Gavalas in one of the Lions' few second half highlights.

The scoring was rounded off on 65 minutes, after another simple tap-in goal from Gasparis. This followed a neat passage of play in which Ouliaris was able to round the 'keeper to then square the ball back to his team-mate to duly make it 7-0 to Heidelberg. The remainder of the game saw Heidelberg create a succession of opportunities to add to the scoreline, but thanks to

some wonderful saves in one on one situations by Salcin & some poor finishing by the Heidelberg forwards, the final score remained unchanged.

It's a case of where to now for Preston as they take on eleventh-placed Whittlesea Zebras in a bottom of the table battle at Epping Stadium on Monday May 17th, whilst Heidelberg make the trip to George Andrews Reserve to take on the undefeated top of the table Dandenong Thunder next Saturday night (May 15th) in what promises to be a great game.

In the U/21's game this afternoon, Heid Utd 3 def Preston 1

Final Score at the BT Connor Reserve this afternoon: Heidelberg United 7 (Ederaro (3) 33', 40' 50', Gasparis (2) 43' 65', Hockless 29', Jones 55') defeated Preston Lions 0

Player of the Match: Osagie Ederaro (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: 600

Team Line Ups:

PRESTON LIONS: Salcin; Tolevski, Bosevski, Filipovic (Mitrevski 70'), Kocovski, R. Dolevski, Mickovski, Kolevski, Ladjnak, Cosevski, Miskas

Subs not used: Stojanovski (GK), J. Dolevski, Jovanovski

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

HEIDELBERG UNITED: P. Gavalas; Roberts, Jones, Ouliaris (Ameti 71'), Aliliovic (Gasparis 37') Vassiliadis, Magnacca, Hockless, Peta (Tsiorlas 56'), Drossos, Ederaro

Subs not used: Stefanou, L. Gavalas (GK)

Yellow Cards: Nil

Red Cards: Nil

By John Fotinos

Photos by Nome Risteski



Osagie Ederaro congratulates Marinos Gasparis on the third goal



Ederaro helps himself to the top of the scorers charts

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PLAYING WITH INERTIA

Stalemate At Chaplin Reserve



SUNSHINE
GEORGIES

0 - 0

WHITTLESEA
ZEBRAS



This was a pretty tame affair with the Zebras setting out their stall early in the game to not concede a goal and they came with a draw in mind and achieved their aim to take themselves two competition points for the afternoon.

The game started with Sunshine dictating play and while they had no real penetration to their play, the home side were the brighter of the two teams. A glorious chance fell to a Sunshine striker who saw his effort hit the crossbar with the Zebras keeper well

beaten.

While this was the most obvious chance of the half both teams tried to gain some ascendancy and to bring the result in their favour but neither team really got that cutting edge chance and the game was a bit stop start with the referee blowing up plenty of minor fouls rather than letting the game flow. All in all the match officials in this game did a very creditable job however and in recent weeks it must be noted the officiating standards have been pretty consistent and praiseworthy, half Time no goals.

The second half started with Sunshine Georgies the far more likely to find a goal, while the Zebras were restricted to clearing balls and hoping the livewire Taxaharis Apostolakis would be able to fashion something from the crumbs he was getting. This never eventuated. George Papadopoulos was tormenting the Zebra's defence and they were regularly reduced to fouling him to stop him. Sunshine had a number of set play opportunities from corners and free kicks but never found the quality delivery to trouble the Zebra defenders and it was al-

ways going to be Sunshine who would score, but alas never find the back of the net.

When the final whistle blew, a stalemate was produced, and it must be said a pretty tame nil all draw. But, one that will hearten Postecoglou and the Zebra players and the loyal band of supporters who came to watch the zebras.

Next week George Cross play the third of their four home games in a row when they welcome South Melbourne to Chaplin Reserve whilst the Zebras play a Richmond side who will be smarting after their defeat this week.

By Reuben Schembri

Photo by Daniel Flis



Goalmouth action from the scoreless draw between Sunshine Georgies and Whittlesea Zebras.



Georgies player sees red.



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INTER PULL CLEAR

Magnificent Seven For Casey, Top Four Surge

Round 5 of the Women's Premier League saw some movement in the top four, but no change at the top of the ladder, as Box Hill Inter continues to lead the way. Casey gatecrashed the top four with dual victories during the week, forcing Preston, which had the bye, into sixth. In other matches, South Melbourne was victorious on the road, while Ashburton and Heidelberg played out a stalemate.

Box Hill Inter continued its perfect start to the season with a 3-1 victory over Sandringham at Wembley Park on Friday night. The victory makes it five out of five for the reigning premier, and it is five points clear of its closest rival on the WPL ladder. It was always going to be a tough challenge for Sandringham, which had only four days recovery from its previous game. That match, against Casey Comets on Monday night, also finished 3-1 with Sandringham also on the losing end of the scoreline. Amanda Lawless, Katrina Smith and Georgia Koutrouvelis were all on target for the home side, while Keryn Walters was the scorer for Sandringham. Following its strong performance last season, which saw it only miss out on the finals on goal difference, Sandringham has had a horror start to the 2009 season, with its only win to date coming against the now defunct Keilor Park. With those points shortly to be erased from the ladder, Sandringham will then find itself bottom of the ladder, and yet to register a point. As it stands now, however, it is seventh on the ladder.



Heidelberg defender Jolene Miller makes a flat out effort to stop Sarah Lovett (Ashburton) who is about to hit the deck herself

South Melbourne continued its run of form, and overcame the challenge of a long journey, to post a 2-0 victory over Bendigo Vipers in Benalla. After losing its first two matches, South has put together some results in recent weeks, with a draw and two successive wins in its last three games. A goal in each half from Aimee Benton was enough for the visiting side to secure the three points, and make the long trip back to Melbourne a happy one. The result lifts South to fifth on the ladder, one point behind fourth-placed Ashburton. Bendigo, ends

the round at the foot of the ladder, the only side in the competition currently listed as yet to record a victory (at least until the Keilor results are expunged), and having not registered a point since the opening round of the season.

The match of the round took place at Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon, when Heidelberg United hosted Ashburton, with the teams sitting second and third on the ladder respectively. As anticipated, it was a closely fought contest, and there was little to separate the two sides. The teams were still deadlocked at half time, with both teams having scored once. Both sides added a further goal after half time, but neither club could find the crucial goal to bag all three points, and so the match ended in a 2-2 draw. Chrissy Baxendale and Julia Nicolaci scored for the home side, with Sarah Lovett and Sarah Walsh replying for Ashburton. The draw, Heidelberg's first of the season, takes its tally to ten points, and it maintains second position on the ladder. Ashburton, following its second draw, slips a place to fourth.

Casey Comets recorded its second victory in seven days, when it trounced GRFA 7-0 at Howard Glover Reserve. Having already chalked up its second victory of the season by defeating Sandringham 3-1 on Monday night, it swiftly added a third with a comprehensive win over the Geelong side. Four first half goals set up the victory for the Comets, and with the addition of a further three unanswered strikes after the interval. Talia Silivestros did much of the damage, scoring four of the Comets' goals, with singles from Melissa Atherton, Lisa Cloke and Nicola Prins. Casey moves into the top four for the first time this season, and it is level on points with second-placed Heidelberg. GRFA is eighth, with three points from five games.

The majority of Round 6 takes place next Sunday, with three matches scheduled. Preston Lions returns to action to take on Heidelberg United at BT Connor Reserve, while two of the league's form sides meet at Comets Stadium when Casey Comets host South Melbourne, and at Ashburton Park, Ashburton will look to end Box Hill Inter's unbeaten run. The round's remaining game takes place at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Monday night, when Sandringham takes on GRFA. Bendigo Vipers has the bye.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Box Hill Inter	5	5	0	0	25	4	15
Heidelberg Utd	5	3	1	1	19	6	10
Casey Comets	5	3	1	1	16	4	10
Ashburton	4	2	2	0	15	5	8
South Melbour	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Preston Lions	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Sandringham	4	1	0	3	8	9	3
GRFA	5	1	0	4	6	22	3
Bendigo Vipers	4	0	1	3	2	11	1

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 3 (A Lawless K Smith G Koutrouvelis) **Sandringham 1** (K Walters), **Bendigo Vipers 0** **South Melbourne 2** (A Benton 2), **Heidelberg Utd 2** (C Baxendale JL Nicolaci) **Ashburton 2** (S Lovett S Walsh), **GRFA 0** **Casey Comets 7** (M Atherton L Cloke T Silivestros 4 NJ Prins)

WPL ROUND 6

Bendigo Vipers v Bye
Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve
Sat 16 May KO 2:45PM

Preston Lions v Heidelberg Utd
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 17 May KO 1:00PM

Casey Comets v South Melbourne
Comets Stadium
Sun 17 May KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Box Hill Inter
Ashburton Park
Sun 17 May KO 3:00PM

Sandringham v GRFA
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Mon 18 May KO 8:30PM

RESERVES

Box Hill Inter 1 **Sandringham 3**, **Bendigo Vipers 4** **South Melbourne 2**, **Heidelberg Utd 2** **Ashburton 4**, **GRFA 1** **Casey Comets 4**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Casey Comets	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
South Melbourne	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Ashburton	4	2	1	1	14	6	7
Sandringham	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Bendigo Vipers	4	2	1	1	11	8	7
Box Hill Inter	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
GRFA	5	1	0	4	3	20	3
Heidelberg Utd	4	0	2	2	6	9	2
Preston Lions	4	0	1	3	2	7	1



Ashburton's Cindy Dussoye miscues her clearing kick under pressure from Chrissy Baxendale (Heidelberg)

By Niki Cook

Photo by John Punshon

IN THE BEGINNING...

What Were They Doing In 1863?

I know this column is called **Blast from the Past**, but given that most people believe the first game of Association Football was not played in Australia until the 1880s, what, you may ask, am I on about?

It is, however, 150 years since the first set of rules for what became Australian Rules were written in Melbourne. The other day when trawling through Bell's Life in Victoria in 1864 I came across a letter by a fellow who signed himself Free Kick, who was very familiar with what was happening in the United Kingdom and Australia at the time. And this is what he wrote:

'The game of football appears destined to become as popular in this colony as it has already become in England, where it is now fully recognised as the national winter game. ... Within the last year or two ... football in England has received a great impetus, and clubs have been formed in various places, the movement having been warmly espoused by many University men, who have to a great extent shaken off their old prejudices, and are favourable to the formation of a universal code of rules, by which, in future, the game should be played. ... The Football Association was accordingly formed, and set of rules drawn up, which by a very curious coincidence, are very nearly similar to those which were decided on at a meeting of representatives of football clubs, held at the Parade Hotel, near Melbourne, some 5 years ago. ... and it is certainly creditable in every way to the judgment of the gentlemen then appointed, that the very rules they then decided on have subsequently been adopted by the members of the Football Association in England. Whether a stray copy (for the rules were neatly printed and got up) ever found its way home I do not know, but if not it is a strong argument in favour of our own code,

Miscellaneous Ads.
FOOT BALL.

To commence this celebrated game in Warrnambool, three gentlemen are open to play any other three in the vicinity on the 1st June.
Further particulars apply Examiner Office.

Advertisement for a football match in the Warrnambool Examiner, 28 May 1861. On 4 June the paper reported: 'There is every prospect of the good old English game of football becoming quite a popular institution in this District during the winter time. On Saturday last there were about twenty players assembled on the cricket ground, and away they went to work kicking with all their might. Unfortunately, however, but two goals had been attained, before bang burst the ball, and as no substitute could be obtained, the players were obliged to give up just as they were getting nicely warmed to their work. The meeting ultimately resulted in the formation of a football club.'



Detail from etching by Gustav Mutzel in 1862 from William Blandowski's *Australien in 142 Photographischen Abbildungen, 1857*.

that the football parliaments assembled on opposite sides of the globe, should bring the identical same result of their labours.'

Our man, Free Kick, seems to be suggesting that the clubs which formed the Football Association in 1863 might have gained inspiration for their set of laws of the game from what was happening in Melbourne four years before. To me this is a bit far fetched, and a bit like the claims for

Aboriginal or Irish influence on Australian Rules, or at least Melbourne Football Club rules, as drawn up in 1859. But when you read what the Europeans saw Aboriginal children doing you begin to wonder.

Early European settlers and travellers reported the existence of their games and sometimes provided extensive descriptions. Blandowski commented on the game he had seen, which is represented in Mutzel's



Football 1870s style. *The Graphic*, December 1872, reproduced in *The Rules of Association Football 1863*, Bodleian Library, Oxford, 2006.

etching, 'The ball is made out of Typha roots: it is not thrown or hit with a bat, but it is kicked in the air with the foot ... The aim of the game: never let the ball touch the ground.'

It is beyond doubt that Aboriginal games which used a purposely-made ball existed. Since many of the references apply to the period before 1859, just what did observers have in mind when they used the word 'football' to describe what they saw? It could not have been the Australian game since this did not come into existence until then. My good friend, Ian Syson, points out that Blandowski's description looks more like soccer than Australian rules, or rather the football exercise which we used to perform in our youth in Scotland called 'keepy-uppy', keeping the ball off the ground by use of feet and body not arms and hands.

Those migrants who came from a Scottish or English background might well have seen and played a similar type of game in their youth, since the majority of reported observations come from people who did not attend English public schools or universities. There was a strong Scottish presence in the western district of Victoria, particularly around Warrnambool and Portland.

One problem with all this, of course, is that there is no real contemporary evidence that the English referred to Australian rules or that the Australians mentioned Aboriginal activities when drawing up their respective codes. So while these are interesting speculations, or myths if you like, it is worthwhile keeping up the search for information on both possibilities. Who knows we may be able to find connections if we look hard enough.

Words by Roy Hay

All photographs sourced by Roy Hay

FOOTBALL TIME LINE

- 1863:** The Cambridge Rules are rewritten to provide the game's first uniform regulations.
- 1866:** The offside law is changed to allow players to be onside provided there are three players between the ball and the goal.
- 1882:** The associations in Great Britain unify their rules and form the International Football Association Board (IFAB) to control the laws of the game.
- 1886:** The first official meeting of the IFAB takes place.
- 1891:** Introduction of the penalty-kick.
- 1913:** FIFA becomes a member of the IFAB.
- 1925:** Amendment of the offside rule from three to two players.
- 1938:** The present Laws of the Game are framed in a new system of codification, based on the Laws previously in force.
- 1958:** Substitutes are permitted for the first time, albeit only for an injured goalkeeper and one other injured player.
- 1970:** The system of red and yellow cards is introduced for the 1970 FIFA World Cup™ finals.
- 1990:** The offside law is changed in favour of the attacker, who is now onside if level with the penultimate defender.
- 1992:** Goalkeepers are forbidden from handing back-passes.
- 1994:** The technical area is introduced into the Laws of the Game, with the Fourth Official following the next year.
- 1996:** Linesmen are renamed Assistant Referees.
- 1997:** The Laws are revised.



With Mark Boric

BOO'S WORLD



This week I'm taking another look at the \$3000 fee on player transfers between State and A-League clubs once again as the hostilities between the VPL clubs and the FFV look set to resume once again.

Under the new system introduced by the FFA, when a club signs a player to their first ever professional contract they must also pay a fee of \$3000. This money is then supposedly paid back to the clubs that played a role in their development. I say supposedly because I know in Richmond's case it took more than a few months, emails and phone calls to see them re-implemented their share. It was half a year of questioning the FFA before the ball really started rolling. It was then they were informed that they would need to supply details of the cheque (already banked and spent by the FFA) for the matter to proceed further. You would expect the FFA to have a professional accounts department which could have confirmed these details themselves, so you can only assume

the Richmond President, Helmut Kalitzki, was being given the run around. After being made to run around a little more, the club eventually received \$1400. Now the junior clubs of these players may not even know they have signed professional contracts. They may not put in the phone calls to the FFA and they certainly won't have the Richmond SC cheque number on hand if they do so. So what are the chances they all get their share?

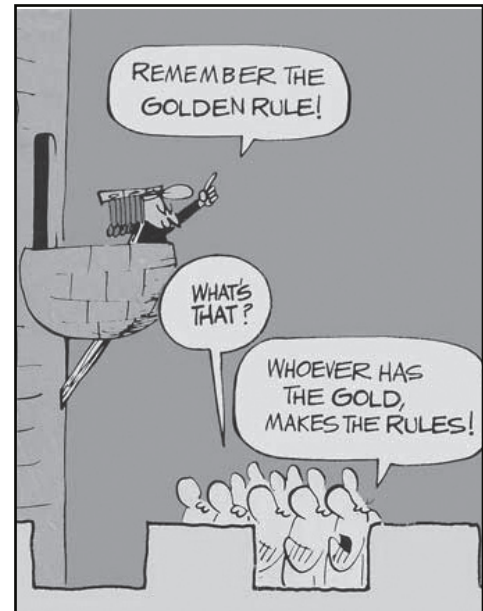
Now if a club wanted to put the best of their under 21's players on contract, it is going to be an expensive exercise. Just doing so with five players will cost \$15,000. This is not an insignificant amount. The parents of the players are not going to fall for their membership fees being jacked up to \$3500! It is a ridiculous fee, especially as they clubs that pay it are faced with restrictions on how much they can make should this player be picked up by an A-League club. Is it also a joke that the two fees are exactly the same? The fee for signing a first professional con-

tract should be scrapped as soon as possible, though this is unlikely whilst the FFA continues to take over the administration of A-League clubs like Perth Glory, Adelaide United and Queensland/Brisbane Roar.

If it isn't obvious enough that the FFA are stealing from grass roots poor to give to the rich, consider the transfer history of Antun Kovacic. The defender joined Newcastle Jets from Richmond. Whilst Richmond received the maximum \$3000 fee, Newcastle soon pocketed \$30,000 when selling him to Ulsan Hyundai of Korea. It is little wonder that local clubs seek arrangements with overseas clubs or agents rather than deal with A-League clubs. Indeed there is a former Richmond player currently with the Portsmouth FC Academy and Reserves teams which would see the club receive a figure greater than selling thirty players to the A-League should he earn a full professional contract over there.

Until the FFV starts to speak up on behalf of it's member clubs on this matter, the

rift between the parties will grow. The FFV should be telling the FFA that it is unfair that the transfer system has been set up to protect privately-owned franchises at the expense of community-based clubs.



With George Katsamboukas

KATSA'S KORNER

Another week, another \$500 dollars for the pop stars running around the various State Leagues.

Actually, slight correction, another week, another \$1000 dollars for the pop stars strutting their stuff in the Premier League.

Gives new meaning fro the term, Great Country Australia.

Over to Station St Fairfield we go where it was a ghost town on Sunday as neither Northcote City or Clifton Hill claimed bragging rights after their 1-1 draw over the weekend.

From what I am told it was a very tough and physical match with both goals being scored via penalties and red cards were dished out also.

Sit tight lads, the return match is only 3 months away, the build up to these matches, and rivalry and passion shown by both sets of supporters is on a smaller scale, that shown between Man U and Liverpool fans.

The Commodore certainly did some Kilometres this week beginning with Monday Nights match between rejuvenated Kingston City vs Eastern Lions with Kingston securing the points.

Friday Night over to the Shark Den it travelled where Doncaster Rovers secured a Happy End, defeating Port Melbourne 4-2.

Donny Rovers put the match beyond doubt early on in the first half as they took an early 3-0 lead.

Temptation did set in on the way there as whilst driving down the Monash Freeway, I could see the lights on at K B "Hungry: Bartlett Reserve and the lure of the best

Black Forest cake going around, nearly had the Commodore veering of at Burnley Exit. Though, was not to be....

The Commodore always slows down around Bartlett Reserve also as it does not want to collect Boo who has been known to frequent this great highway, in various search and rescue missions, relating to Mitre Match Balls.

Over to Kooyong Reserve we go, home of Malvern City who on the Saturday that went past, easily accounted for Casey Comets 8-0

Sunday was a day of rest as neither the Commodore of its Driver were in any fit position to travel to any match.

The Commodore needed a good clean, whilst it's driver needed heavy detox after another great battle with J Walker on the Saturday night.

One Club Powerbroker could not believe his ears on the weekend after he handed in his Team Sheet Book to the Man In Black.

The Man In Black actually counted the starting eleven on the Team Sheet as he believes that the House Of Darebin have actually produced a number of Team Sheet Books with only 10, yes 10, starting players, on the team sheet books.

Good Folk at The House of Darebin, tell me it isn't so....

The Sony Erickson W880i certainly receives some interesting SMS Messages, however the one received on Saturday from an unknown sender certainly took the Cake.



Northcote City's Eddie Soares and Clifton Hill's Fidell Richards get down to it, in the top of the table Division One clash on Saturday.

It read.....

Reminder.Soccer trng resumes tdy from 1pm@Higbury/Blackburn rds Burwood. Hope to c u there!

To its sender, sorry I cannot help you.

700 Games, Hard Games, has taken its toll on both the body, and more so the game.

When you have a night there with an open bar and various Happy End girls parading around, send me another sms, I think that I will be able to help you there.

Till next week.....

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

Coach Toll

Last Year	This Year
2 - 10	3 - 10
Outs - Weeks	Outs - Weeks



The Victorian
Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm

The Green Gully
Football Show
Every Saturday C31 10.30am



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Tues May 12 Newcastle v Middlesbrough
4.55 am Fox Sports 2
Thurs May 14 Wigan v Manchester United
4.55 am Fox Sports 2
Sat May 16 Manchester United v Arsenal
9.40 pm Fox Sports 2
Sat May 16 Everton v West Ham
11.55 pm Fox Sports 2
Sat May 16 Bolton v Hull
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 16 Middlesbrough v Aston Villa
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 16 Newcastle v Fulham
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat May 16 Tottenham v Manchester City
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun May 17 West Brom v Liverpool
10.25 pm Fox Sports 1
Mon May 18 Chelsea v Blackburn
12.55 am Fox Sports 1
Tues May 19 Portsmouth v Sunderland
4.55 am Fox Sports 2

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP - Playoffs
Tues May 12 Sheffield United v Preston
4.30 am Fox Sports 1 / Fox Sports HD
Wed May 13 Reading v Burnley
4.30 am Fox Sports 2 / Fox Sports HD

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Tues May 19 Central Coast v Tianjin Teda
7.30 pm Fox Sports 3
Wed May 20 Ulsan Hyundai v Newcastle
8.25 pm Fox Sports 3



Monday 11th May
3:30am SPL Inverness vs Hamilton
5:15am Serie A Atalanta vs Genoa
10:30pm Russian PL Spartak vs Saturn LIVE

Tuesday 12th May
4:15pm FA Trophy Final Stevenage vs York

Wednesday 13th May
4:00am SPL Celtic vs Dundee Utd LIVE
9:15am Copa Liberta Sport vs Palmeiras LIVE

Thursday 14th May
4:00am SPL Hibernian vs Rangers LIVE
10:45am Gremio vs Univ San Martin LIVE
4:00pm Ligue 1 Valenciennes vs Bordeaux

Friday 15th May
8:30am Copa Lib Defensor vs Boca Juniors LIVE
10:15am Copa Lib Libertad vs Estudiantes LIVE

Saturday 16th May
1:45pm Magners League Glasgow Warriors vs Connacht
8:30pm SPL Rangers vs Aberdeen LIVE

Sunday 17th May
1:30pm Serie A Udinese vs AC Milan
9:00pm SPL Hibernian vs Celtic LIVE

Monday 18th May
00:30am Blue Square Premier Play Off Final Cambridge vs Torquay LIVE
5:00am Ligue 1 Marseille vs Lyon LIVE
11:15am Ulster Senior Football Championship Fermanagh vs Down
4:15pm Serie A Palermo vs Lazio

WIN PALACE CINEMA TICKETS!

Thanks to our friends at the Palace Cinema here's your chance to score a free pass to the movies.

To register your interest and be in the running to win this top prize, simply answer the following question:

In which city will this year's UEFA Champions League Final take place?

Email your answer to:
competition@goalweekly.com



WAG OF THE WEEK



Martina Colombari Age: 32
Insignificant other: AC Milan Centre Back, Alessandro Costacurta

FOOTBALL QUOTES

'There's one that hasn't been cancelled because of the Arctic conditions - it's been cancelled because of a frozen pitch' - BOB WILSON

'It's end to end stuff, all at one end' - JEFF STELLING

'Darryl Powell had a groin operation at the end of last season, recovering quickly enough to play five times for Jamaica. He injured his other groin in a pre-season game against St Truidense in Belgium' - DERBY OFFICIAL WEBSITE

'The unthinkable is not something we are thinking about at the moment.' - PETER KENYON (Manchester United chief executive)

'And Scott Gemill has put Everton ahead in the big match between the bottom five' - STEVE RYDER

'Andy Cole has at last broken his goal glut with his first goal for England.' - Channel 5 newsreader

'To be honest, I can't remember him scoring a goal that wasn't memorable.' - JEROME ANDERSON (agent)

'He is the man who you can pin your hopes on and he never fails to let you down.' - liverpoolfc.tv

PEDRO'S PIT

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OSAGIE EDERARO

HEIDELBERG UTD WARRIORS FC

FULL NAME: Osagie Ederaro
BIRTHPLACE: Benin City, Nigeria
BIRTH DATE: 25th August 1986
HEIGHT: 167cm
WEIGHT: 65kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Not At The Moment
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Nil
NICKNAME: Ferrari
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Uhunwode United(Nigeria), Bales-tier Khalsa(Singapore), Wollongong Wolves(Australia)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Nigeria Under 17(Squad)
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Ronaldo De Lima
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Cristiano Ronaldo
FAVOURITE VPL PLAYER: Tony Ouliaris
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Nigeria U-17 vs Romania Norwegian cup 2001
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Manchester United vs Arsenal Champions league 1st And 2nd Leg
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 45seconds Goal Against Geylang United(Singapore)
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Chelsea vs Barcelona Champions League Semi Final 2nd Leg
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Give A Card For Offence I Didn't Commit
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Get Dropped From U-23 Nigeria Squad
WORST INJURY: Stress Fracture (Foot)
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Yet To Fine out
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium(South Melbourne Ground)
SUPERSTITIONS: That I Have been Sign Up By Motherwell in Scotland Last Year
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Subway(chicken and avocado)
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Speed
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Heading the ball
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: James Lebron
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pasta
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Denzel Washington
HOBBIES: Listen To Music And Playing Soccer
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Singapore
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Nil
IDEAL DATE: Dinner And Quiet Movie
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Father Hood By Snoop Dog
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Hip Pop, R & B, Raggae and African music
FAVOURITE FILM: State Property and Training Day
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Manchester United Shirt
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I Have been Sign Up By Motherwell in Scotland Last Year
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Family
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Nil
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play At The Highest Level I Can Reach
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Ronaldo De Lima
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Heidelberg United of course



Photo by John Punshon

goal!
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FOOTBALL FOCUS



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THE RISE OF ESSENDON UNITED

COUP FOR CLUB AS BOUTSIANIS SIGNS AS GUEST



Back Row: Spiro Thallasinos (President), Con Boutsianis, Adrian Rulli, Adam Tennenini, Chris Hatzikonstantinos, Spiro Dimitropoulos, Robert Carchedi, Vince Tartaglia, Pat Devuono, James Trifiletti, Joe Loschiavo (Vice President).
Front Row: Norm Mancuso (Coach), Andrew Imvriotis, David Loschiavo, Anthony Napolitano, Simon Taylor, Anthony Thallasinos, Tony Angerami, Daniel Mussel, Enzo Inglesi (Captain), Preethi Subramaniam (Physiotherapist).

Card games usually have winners and losers. However over a card game in 2005, a group of football-mad mates decided to create a club. From this point on Essendon United have won a lot of matches, enjoyed huge successes and even signed a former international.

Founder and President Spiro Thalassinos remembers that night well. Just a bunch of friends talking football and playing cards has evolved into a club that has won three senior premierships in a row and now has over 250 club members. However it hasn't been without its hurdles.

Attracting youth was the hardest part and still continues to be an issue for Essendon United as bigger clubs attract top talent easier. Thalassinos says giving younger players the opportunity to play in higher levels quicker is a quality not as easy to come by at larger clubs and is something he promotes to his

youth.

Three such youngsters have benefited from this system. Simon Taylor, Richard Di Mauro and Anthony Thalassinos all started off playing in the junior ranks and are now playing senior reserve football. The President says it is a testament to their hard work but also for staying with the club despite the presence of other clubs.

It isn't just the kids who have stuck with the club. Essendon United has a number of former Premier and high-grade players who dropped down many levels just to be part of club. One is Chris Hatzikonstantinos who has played in every senior team possible. He was part of the 2008 Division 2 championship team and typifies the family culture at Essendon United.

"We are like a bunch of brothers. We muck around and have fun. There are guys who have played at top

levels previously who just want play some football with their mates. We are a bunch of asylum seekers, in the football sense."

Brotherhood comes from strong leaders. Senior Coach Norm Mancuso, a former Werribee player, has been coaching senior football since 2006 and began with Essendon United last year as player/coach. He is concentrating on specifically coaching this season and is not a player.

Club captain Enzo Inglesi is highly regarded with the club and was named the best player of the league last year in Division 2.

Young clubs need someone with genuine experience. Although Essendon has lots of members with genuine experience at grassroots level, a former international tops all this. Enter former Socceroo and National Soccer League player Con Boutsianis.

Thalassinos says it is through friends he met Boutsianis and the idea to play at Essendon United developed from there.

"After a year of speaking with Con on and off, I asked him if he wanted to play football when he was in Melbourne. There is no-one better to bring to the club. He is a professional player and really puts our club on the mat. Hopefully we will see him for a few more games in the season."

Signing Boutsianis has undoubtedly added immensely to Essendon United's profile, but creating strong development is just as important. The club has eight small-sighted teams, an Under 14, Under 18, Masters, Reserve Grade and Senior team.

Their two playing grounds are at Aberfeldie Park in Essendon for senior matches and juniors play at JH Allen Reserve in Keilor East.

Looking to the future, how do you equal winning premierships every year for the past three years?

Thalassinos says being promoted each year is great however the immediate goal is to stay in Division 1 and continue to build the club.

"Cementing the spot in the league is our main goal this year. The hardest thing we have faced is not having a chance to take a break and settle into a league as we've had to adjust to each league after being promoted."

As long as Essendon United keeps winning football matches, taking the occasional break may seem insignificant in the short-term. Unless it is to play a game of cards.

By Andrew Marmont

Photo by Paul Muir

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE NW 3 - SEASON 2009

Round 1

Sat 28 Mar KO 2:30PM Ascot Vale 1 - 5 Melton MacPhersons Park
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions 1 - 1 Brimbank City Italo-Aust Soc Club
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras 2 - 1 Keon Park Sumner Park
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd 2 - 2 Upfield Hills Recreation Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Mill Park 2 - 1 Youth Utd Findon Res
Sat 28 Mar KO 3:00PM Surf Coast 3 - 1 Keilor Wolves Quay Res

Round 2

Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Youth Utd 0 - 0 Surf Coast Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Upfield 5 - 1 Mill Park Gibbs Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Keon Park 0 - 5 Bundoora Utd JC Donath Res
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras 1 - 0 Brimbank City Sumner Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale 1 - 2 Keilor Wolves Fairbairn Park
Sat 4 Apr KO 7:00PM Melton 1 - 3 Brimbank Stallions MacPhersons Park

Round 3

Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions 1 - 0 Ascot Vale Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras 1 - 1 Melton Sumner Park
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd 1 - 2 Brimbank City Hills Recreation Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Mill Park 3 - 0 Keon Park Findon Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Surf Coast 0 - 1 Upfield Quay Res
Sat 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Youth Utd 3 - 1 Keilor Wolves Seth Raistrick Res

Round 4

Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Upfield 1 - 0 Youth Utd Gibbs Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Keon Park 0 - 1 Surf Coast JC Donath Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Brimbank City 1 - 1 Mill Park Selwyn Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves 2 - 1 Brimbank Stallions Green Gully Res
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Melton 0 - 3 Bundoora Utd MacPhersons Park
Sat 25 Apr KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale 2 - 1 Brunswick Zebras Fairbairn Park

Round 5

Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras 1 - 3 Brimbank Stallions Sumner Park
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd 3 - 0 Ascot Vale Hills Recreation Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Mill Park 1 - 3 Melton Findon Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Surf Coast 3 - 1 Brimbank City Quay Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Youth Utd 0 - 0 Keon Park Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 2 May KO 3:00PM Upfield 2 - 2 Keilor Wolves Gibbs Res

Round 6

Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Upfield JC Donath Res
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Youth Utd Selwyn Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Brunswick Zebras Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Mill Park Fairbairn Park
Sat 9 May KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Bundoora Utd Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 9 May KO 7:00PM Melton v Surf Coast MacPhersons Park

Round 7

Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Brunswick Zebras Hills Recreation Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Brimbank Stallions Findon Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Ascot Vale Quay Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Melton Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Upfield v Brimbank City Gibbs Res
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Keilor Wolves JC Donath Res

Round 8

Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Keon Park Selwyn Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Bundoora Utd Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Melton v Upfield MacPhersons Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Youth Utd Fairbairn Park
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Surf Coast Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 23 May KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Mill Park Sumner Park

Round 9

Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Bundoora Utd Findon Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Brunswick Zebras Quay Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Brimbank Stallions Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Upfield v Ascot Vale Gibbs Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Melton JC Donath Res
Sat 30 May KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Keilor Wolves Selwyn Park

Round 10

Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Keilor Wolves Findon Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Upfield Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Youth Utd Sumner Park
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Surf Coast Hills Recreation Res
Sat 13 Jun KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Keon Park Fairbairn Park
Sat 13 Jun KO 7:00PM Melton v Brimbank City MacPhersons Park

Round 11

Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Mill Park Quay Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Bundoora Utd Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Upfield v Brunswick Zebras Gibbs Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Brimbank Stallions JC Donath Res
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Ascot Vale Selwyn Park
Sat 20 Jun KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Melton Green Gully Res No.4

Round 12

Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Melton v Ascot Vale MacPhersons Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Brimbank Stallions Selwyn Park
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Brunswick Zebras JC Donath Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Upfield v Bundoora Utd Gibbs Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Mill Park Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 27 Jun KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Surf Coast Green Gully Res No.4

Round 13

Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Youth Utd Quay Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Upfield Findon Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Keon Park Hills Recreation Res
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Brunswick Zebras Selwyn Park
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Ascot Vale Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 4 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Melton Italo-Aust Social Club

Round 14

Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Brimbank Stallions Fairbairn Park
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Bundoora Utd Selwyn Park
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Mill Park JC Donath Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Upfield v Surf Coast Gibbs Res
Sat 11 Jul KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Youth Utd Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 11 Jul KO 7:00PM Melton v Brunswick Zebras MacPhersons Park

Round 15

Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Upfield Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Keon Park Quay Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Brimbank City Findon Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Keilor Wolves Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Melton Hills Recreation Res
Sat 18 Jul KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Ascot Vale Sumner Park

Round 16

Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v B'wick Zebras Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Bundoora Utd Fairbairn Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Melton v Mill Park MacPhersons Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Surf Coast Selwyn Park
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Youth Utd JC Donath Res
Sat 25 Jul KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Upfield Green Gully Res No.4

Round 17

Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Upfield v Keon Park Gibbs Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Brimbank City Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Keilor Wolves Sumner Park
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Melton Quay Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Ascot Vale Findon Res
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Brimbank Stallions Hills Recreation Res

Round 18

Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Bundoora Utd Sumner Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Mill Park Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Surf Coast Fairbairn Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Melton v Youth Utd MacPhersons Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Upfield Selwyn Park
Sat 8 Aug KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Keon Park Green Gully Res No.4

Round 19

Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Brimbank City JC Donath Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Keilor Wolves Hills Recreation Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Upfield v Melton Gibbs Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Ascot Vale Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Brimbank Stallions Quay Res
Sat 15 Aug KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Brunswick Zebras Findon Res

Round 20

Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Mill Park Hills Recreation Res
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Surf Coast Sumner Park
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Youth Utd Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Upfield Fairbairn Park
Sat 22 Aug KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Brimbank City Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 22 Aug KO 7:00PM Melton v Keon Park MacPhersons Park

Round 21

Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Keilor Wolves v Mill Park Green Gully Res No.4
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Brimbank City v Melton Selwyn Park
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Upfield v Brimbank Stallions Gibbs Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Youth Utd v Brunswick Zebras Seth Raistrick Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Surf Coast v Bundoora Utd Quay Res
Sat 29 Aug KO 3:00PM Keon Park v Ascot Vale JC Donath Res

Round 22

Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Mill Park v Surf Coast Findon Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Bundoora Utd v Youth Utd Hills Recreation Res
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Brunswick Zebras v Upfield Sumner Park
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Brimbank Stallions v Keon Park Italo-Aust Social Club
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Ascot Vale v Brimbank City Fairbairn Park
Sat 5 Sep KO 3:00PM Melton v Keilor Wolves MacPhersons Park

Draw Notes:

CATCH-UP ROUNDS - 6th June 20KO & 12 September 20KO - Clubs will be notified by FFV of matches to be played on this weekend during the course of the season.

CLUBS ARE ADVISED TO VERIFY THEIR FIXTURES REGULARLY VIA RESULTS VAULT AND THE FFV WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE SEASON.

FALCONS SWOOP ON HAWK'S NEST

Corner Sports Cup Hots Up!

State League side Enfield City Falcons progressed through to the Quarter Finals of the Top Corner Sports Cup with their 2-1 win against Super League club Adelaide Hills Hawks at the Hawks Nest Woodside.

Brett Selga and Tyson Prescott were successful in finding the back of the net for the Falcons while Bowman pegged one back for the Hawks. The Falcons took the lead early in the match through some clever play Brett Selga catching the Hawks defence by surprise as he beat young in-form keeper Dan Atkins. The Super League experience of the Hawks did not account for much as the State League side went about putting together a display that proved they could match it with their opponents. Veteran player Peter Waine was instrumental in orchestrating some great forward passages of play that provided Enfield with plenty of chances throughout the match. Midway through the first half Hawks equalized through a corner kick that came in high and found the head of Damien Puyenbroek, his header hitting the cross bar coming down on the line with Bowman strategically heading in for the goal. Hawks found the net yet again midway through late in the first half, this time the goal being deemed offside by referee Airlie Keen. As Enfield

continued pressing the Hawks they tasted the fruits of their labour with a goal late in the first half just before half time by Tyson Prescott. Waine again in the thick of things, cutting the ball back from the right into the box where the shot was drilled into the upright, but rebounding for Prescott to knock in. The Hawks gave a strong fight back in the second half, but luck was not on their side having a second goal disallowed again offside. Some brilliant keeping displays by the Falcons keeper kept everyone entertained, his instructions to his players at times comical as he marshalled his men around him. The win keeps the winning streak going for the Falcons who have had a great start to season 2009 playing 8 rounds without a loss and the 2 cup wins. Coach Peter Cristarella was very happy with the win. "It was a good win for the boys. Every time we have come up to play here, the game ends in a draw. We're travelling very well at the moment and we still have players to come back into the side so I'm happy with that." Best on the day for Adelaide Hills were S.Bowman, N.Elliott, and S.Papini while for Enfield were T.Prescott, B.Selga and R.Fimmano.

In other games across the grounds **Campbelltown City Red Devils and Adelaide Blue Eagles** had a re-match of their game last week ending in a 0-0

result after extra time, forcing the game to penalties. The Red Devils took out the match with a 4-3 result, their keeper Les Pogliacomi playing a big part in pulling off 2 great saves to do so. Pogliacomi even fancied himself as an on-field player, stepping up to take one of the penalties but skying it way over the cross bar to the delight of Blue Eagles keeper Gino De Lucia. Best on the day for Campbelltown were Michael D'Aloisio, winger Domenic Signoriello and great playmaker Ali Toure while for the Blue Eagles Chris Atsikbasis, Adam Vizzari and Joe Pisanelli did the trick.

Results from other matches were White City Woodville 2 (M.Radocaj, F.Bucco) defeated Modbury 1 (R.Devlin) Best - White City (A.Stam, M.Beron, A.Leane) and for Modbury (A.Carter, D.Crowl, D.Morell)

Salisbury United 0 went down to Adelaide City 1 (N.Orr) after keeping the game scoreless at half time. Best - Salisbury (C.Van Paridon, D.McKenna, C.Schulze) and for Adel City (J.Negus, N.Orr, N.Budin)

Para Hills 1 (P.Marino) were defeated at home by MetroStars 2 (F.Monterosso, A.Ciarla)

Best - Para Hills (Ma.Mullen, M.Cartwright, P.Marino) and for MetroStars (M.Pirone, A.Ciarla, I.Karlovic)

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (P.Karittevlis) were ousted of the cup by the Premier League side Croydon Kings 2 (L.Klimek, P.Loizides). Best - Galaxy (E.Metanomski, O.Malik, M.Doyle) and for Croydon (R.Gray, D.Christison, C.D'Alfonso)

Two games are scheduled to be played on 8th June Premier League Pirates vs State League N.A.B. at Pirate Park and Premier League Cumberland United vs State League Seaford Rangers at Bailey Reserve.

The Super League next week sees the halfway mark to the season with Round 9 being played. Modbury Jets are at home to MetroStars on Friday night. Campbelltown City face up to Para Hills. Raiders take on Adelaide Blue Eagles at home. Adelaide Hills host Western Strikers and Adelaide City play on Monday night against Adelaide Galaxy.

By Nat Adamopoulos

Photo by Adam Butler

FFSA RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Adelaide Blue Eagles	7	6	0	1	10	5	5	18
Adelaide City	8	4	2	2	13	6	7	14
MetroStars	7	4	2	1	9	4	5	14
Campbelltown	7	4	1	2	15	6	9	13
Raiders	8	3	3	2	13	11	2	12
Para Hills	8	2	4	2	9	10	-1	10
Western Strikers	8	3	0	5	9	11	-2	9
Adelaide Galaxy	8	2	1	5	7	14	-7	7
Adelaide Hills	7	1	2	4	5	8	-3	5
Modbury	8	1	1	6	7	22	-15	4

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goal!
Weekly



Enfield's veteran Peter Waine locking horns with Hawk's Damien Puyenbroek

STRIKERS HIT TEN OF THE BEST!

Round nine’s match of the round saw the highly anticipated first ever northern derby between FNQ Bulls and NQ Razorbacks. In other games, Brisbane Strikers hosted the bottom-of-the-table Bundaberg Spirit, Capricorn Cougars and Whitsunday Miners fought it out at Jardine Park while Redlands City Devils travel north to play Sunshine Coast FC. In the final game of the round, former QLD Roar players Remo Buess and Hyuk-Su Seo will do battle when their respective sides meet on late Sunday.

Brisbane Strikers 10 (Steve Unsworth 12’, 16’, Warren Moon 22’, Matt Smith 41’, Chris Di Sipio 58’, Jeromy Harris 61’, Chay Hews 64’, 86’, Luke Morley 79’, 84’) - Bundaberg Spirit 0

Over the past fortnight the Spirit had stabilised a season that appeared to be spiralling out of control for them resulting in creditable performances and narrow losses to north Queensland opposition. But none of that seemed to matter against Brisbane, who were on a mission to prove to themselves that they were hungry enough to put lesser teams to bed. A double to Steve Unsworth and further goals to Warren Moon and captain Matt Smith built a comfortable 4-0 half-time lead. The second-half saw more of the same with substitutes Luke Morley (two goals), Chris Di Sipio, Jeromy Harris and Chay Hews (also two goals) adding six more to thoroughly rout a Bundaberg team who will need to show plenty of spirit to retrieve something from the season after this mauling.

10-0 is a lopsided football score line in anyone’s language. Those who were not at Perry Park to witness how it was achieved could be tempted to right the game off as a ‘walk in the park’ for the victors. But that would give the lie to the fact that the Strikers did not ‘stroll’ for a moment,

and also to the fact that most players in Bundaberg’s sky-blue shirts never gave up chasing them until the final whistle.

Capricorn Cougars 2 (Brendan James 51’, Justin McMullen 77’) - Whitsunday Miners 2 (Mark Rhodes 22’, Daniel Scotton 32’)

After both suffering losses last week Capricorn and Whitsunday were going into the game in dire need of points in what many QSL watchers considered a ‘must win’ game for the sides if they hope to secure a finals position this season. The early running of the match saw Whitsunday on top demonstrating some good play that has seen them grow in stature since the beginning of the season. Mark Rhodes was the first to get onto the scoreboard taking advantage of some mediocre defending by the Cougars and he was followed ten minutes later by teammate Daniel Scotton to give Whitsunday a 2-0 lead at half-time.

The break seemed to rejuvenate the home side, perhaps buying into the assertion that this was a ‘must win’ match and they attacked with gusto, leading to Brendan James pulling a goal back in the 51st minute. It wasn’t over at 2-1 though and Justin McMullen rose to the occasion and secured a much needed point for the home side in the 77th minute to keep the Cougars slim final hopes alive.

FNQ Bulls 1 (George Koroma 79’) - NQ Razorbacks 1 (David Mayes 45’)

The first ever northern derby between FNQ Bulls and NQ Razorbacks was something Hyundai QSL fans had been anticipating ever since the inception of the Mareeba-based side into the competition this year and the date finally arrived on Saturday.

Both teams came into the game with reasonable form and the chance to earn regional bragging rights ensured a frenetic start to the match. The

visitors gave the better showing in the first half, forcing Daniel Wilesmith to pull off some quality saves. However it wasn’t all one way as the Bulls forwards threatened on several occasions to open the scoring. In the end though it was the Razorbacks David Mayes who put the visitors ahead on the stroke of half-time.

The return of the two sides after the break also saw the return of the pace and niggles that had marked the start of the match. The Bulls looked to get forward in numbers at every opportunity as they chased the game, with fleet-footed winger George Koroma a constant threat to the visitors goal. In the 79th minute the home sides endeavour paid dividends as danger man Koroma put the ball past the keeper’s outstretched hands to earn a share of the spoils in the first northern derby.

Sunshine Coast FC vs Redlands City Devils – Sunday 10th May

Redlands City Devils head into Sunday afternoon’s game against Sunshine Coast FC brimming with confidence, after a comfortable win last week that saw them take third place in the league.

Sunshine Coast FC, however, haven’t won a game since round two, and have lost some key players in recent weeks. Defender Lindsay Henderson and midfield dynamo Michael Scarff, both part of the 2008 Premiership and Grand Final winning team, have returned to their local Coast clubs, while new boys Dan Kirkup and Ritchie Davidson have both returned to the UK. Redlands will be relying on their strike power in Russell Woodruffe as well as the inspirational form of newcomer Chris Bale to bring home the three points.

Logan United vs Olympic FC - Sunday 10th May

This Sunday’s late kickoff at Clem Jones Fields

sees two former Roar players play head-to-head for the first time. Logan United’s Remo Buess and Olympic’s Hyuk-Su Seo both travelled to Australia to be a part of the foundation Roar team in 2005 and are now playing in their first season in the Hyundai QSL.

It can be seen that Seo and Buess are enjoying themselves – Seo scored his first goal of the campaign last weekend and Olympic sit clear at the top by four points, while Buess has been outstanding in his task of captaining Logan United.

After last weekend’s embarrassing defeat to Redlands, Logan will be keen to bounce back against the only unbeaten side in the league, but with the attacking likes of Andrew Oar, Alex Panic and Shane Coffey all in formidable form, Buess will have to ensure his team is consistent and focused on becoming the first side to take points from Olympic in 2009.

BYE - QAS

By Jarrod Ellis

Photos by Brett McDonald

QSL STANDINGS

	G	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Olympic FC	8	7	1	0	27	5	22	22
2 Brisbane Strikers	7	6	0	1	21	6	15	18
3 Redlands C Devils	8	5	0	3	19	13	6	15
4 NQ Razorbacks	7	5	0	2	16	10	6	15
5 Queensland AoS	8	4	1	3	17	15	2	13
6 FNQ Bulls	7	3	1	3	13	11	2	10
7 Logan United FC	7	2	2	3	11	15	-4	8
8 Sunshine Coast FC	7	2	1	4	11	12	-1	7
9 Capricorn Cougars	7	2	0	5	9	21	-12	6
10 Whitsunday Miner	7	1	0	6	13	21	-8	3
11 Bundaberg Spirit	7	0	0	7	3	31	-28	0

KNIGHTS MOVE TO SECOND

The Western Knights moved to second in the Football West State Premier league following a 3-2 home victory over arch rival Cockburn City.

The game opened at a very slow pace and with neither side keeping possession for any length of time in which to build an attack. So it was no great surprise when it took a long ball from David Annall that was flicked on by the ever-dangerous Anthony Campbell, that the Knights took the lead. Campbell’s flick fell into the path of Mario Marcinko and his low drive on the angle was allowed to squirm under the goalkeeper and over the line. It was a goal that young keeper Dejan Aleskic will want to forget in a hurry.

The Knights almost doubled their lead in the twentieth minute when a David Micevski corner from the left hit the post with Aleskic rooted to the spot. Micevski was presented with a better opportunity when a deflected cross from brother Daniel fell to him at the edge of the box. But he hurried his shot and it sailed over the cross bar.

Cockburn’s best chance came following a surging run by right back Devon Gibson saw him carry the ball from inside his own half to the Knights penalty area, he slipped the ball to Johnny Mirco, but his shot went wide of the right hand post.

Cockburn were starting to come into the game and it was becoming quite a feisty affair with three yellow cards handed out within 5 minutes. Jason dos Santos managed to turn the Knights defender Dimondstar with ease

and was bearing down on Siddall’s goal when David Annall put in a tackle at the edge of the box that snuffed out the opportunity.

The 43rd minute saw and unfortunate incident rob the game of two of its better players. Johnny Mirco and David Price collided as they both went for the ball, and both left the field and took no further part in the game. Price’s knee injury looked like it could be serious enough to have him out of action for a while, but Mirco was hobbling on his injured ankle as he left the ground.

Three minutes into the second half the Knights’ had doubled their lead thanks to a wonderful individual effort by Anthony Campbell. The big defender- turned-striker picked up the ball on the left just inside Cockburn’s half and ran through five challenges, two in the box before sliding the ball under a slow to react Aleskic.

Four minutes later Cockburn finally came to life thanks to a wonderful strike by Jason dos Santos. Receiving the ball on the right hand side of the box he looked up and curled a powerful shot that dipped under the cross bar and into the top left hand corner of Siddall’s goal.

This goal brought the game to life and chances were squandered by both teams but mainly the Western Knights, with Marcinko and Campbell being the main culprits. However Campbell did find the back of the net in the 75th minute when following a wonderful cross by Daniel Micevski to the back post he looped his header back across Aleskic’s goal

and it nestled in the back of the net.

Substitute Mathew Grigo gave Cockburn a lifeline in the 88th minute when he cut in from the right and drove a low shot past an outstretched Siddall and into the ‘keeper’s bottom right-hand corner.

Time was however against Cockburn and when Michael Mirco shot high and wide when put into space by another intelligent run by Devon Gibson deep into injury time, Cockburn’s chances of a share of the points sailed away like his wayward effort.

This win moved the Knights into second place on the ladder and they were helped by some surprising results. Cellar dwellers Armadale took the lead at home against top of the table Perth and only a goal from player of the year Anthony Naglieri in the 71st minute saved Perth’s blushes. All three of Armadale’s points now coming from draws. Newly promoted Canning City stunned defending champions Sorrento winning 4-2, thanks to goals from Trevisiol, Mehic and two from Van Dongen. Mandurah City was stunned by Swan United 3-0 at home. This was the Swans first win of the season. While Stirling Lions dropped to the bottom of the league when they lost 1-0 to Inglewood. Floreat Athena versus ECU Joondalup was a late kick off on Sunday.

By Ashley Morrison

In Perth

WA STANDINGS

	G	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Perth SC	5	4	1	0	20	7	13	13
2 Western Knights	5	3	1	1	12	6	6	10
3 Mandurah City	5	3	0	2	9	7	2	9
4 Floreat Athena	4	3	0	1	7	5	2	9
5 Cockburn City	5	2	1	2	15	10	5	7
6 Canning City	5	2	1	2	9	12	-3	7
7 ECU Joondalup	4	2	0	2	9	6	3	6
8 Inglewood United	5	2	0	3	6	13	-7	6
9 Sorrento	5	1	2	2	11	13	-2	5
10 Swan United	5	1	1	3	7	14	-7	4
11 Armadale	5	0	3	2	6	10	-4	3
12 Stirling Lions	5	0	2	3	6	14	-8	2

MASTERS WARM UP WITH A BANG

The Former State and International side that will be competing at the Masters world cup in Thailand later this month, demolished the former Malaysia national team 8-0 at BGC stadium in Perth on Wednesday night.

Former Perth Glory and Heidelberg striker Bobby Despotovski notching 4 goals. Despotovski who was forced to retire from the A league due to a back injury advised that this has all healed now so he can concentrate on his golf.

The Australian representative team that made the finals of the tournament last year are hoping to go one better this year and have recruited a few younger players into the side. Although former Socceroos Despotovski, Alan Davidson, Robbie Dunn and Robbie Zabica should lend the team some international experience. Former Socceroo captain Gary Marocchi is the coach of the side and the tournament starts on the 22nd of May.

UNITED STROLLS ON AS RIVALS CHASE

Marconi were the stars of the round in the NSW Premier League, thumping Bonnyrigg 5-1 away from home.

The quality of Marconi's imported stars, Ivorians Ousmane Kader Toure and Vamana Diarra and Iraqi Ali Abbas, proved the difference as the foreign legion notched four or the five Marconi goals. Not that Marconi were thereby able to close the gap on runaway leaders Sydney United: the men from Edensor Park saw off hosts Penrith-Nepean 4-0 with a second-half blitz, and remain seven points clear at the top.

Manly United stayed in second place with a 2-0 win over Bankstown City at home. The visitors were reduced to ten men in the first half, and Brad Groves and Michael Lloyd-Green secured the points for Phil Moss's side in the second period. Another side in the leading group to gain a key victory over a rival was the Sutherland Sharks, who stormed past Sydney Olympic 4-1 at Belmore on Sunday. Details of this match can be found below.

APIA-Leichhardt, back at their old Lambert Park ground, saw off the struggling West Sydney Berries 2-0. Robert Younis, back from his stint at Adelaide United, sealed the win in the second half after Jamie McMaster had opened the scoring early in the piece. In Saturday's other game, the Blacktown City Demons continued their recent recovery, soundly beating defending champions Wollongong 3-0 at the Gabbie. The 2008 champions have had a horror season so far, with their enforced nomadic status (they have played at three different "home" grounds) not helping.

Sydney Olympic 1-4 Sutherland Sharks

A whirlwind few minutes midway through the first half saw the visiting Sutherland Sharks race to a 4-1 lead over Sydney Olympic at Belmore, and the scoreline remained unchanged at the fi-

nal whistle. The game began with a controversial goal for the home side after four minutes. Tolgay Ozbey, energetic as always, raced onto a long ball on the left; with Sutherland keeper Nathan Denham advancing on him, he side-footed the ball gently towards goal, where it was cleared on the line. However, the referee ruled that Denham had fouled Ozbey, and a penalty was awarded. Chris Triantis took it, and his unforgiving right foot slotted the ball low into the right-hand corner.

The home side might have made it two on six minutes, when Iain Ramsay surged down the left and cut the ball back to Paul Wither, who snatched at his shot and sliced wide. Two minutes later, at the other end, a defensive thump up the middle was met by Brad Boardman's glancing header, and Sam Emmanouil did well to get a fingertip to the ball, which was subsequently cleared off the Olympic goal-line.

The game remained lively, and Olympic looked just on the point of retaining the initiative when a free kick from Triantis was glided just wide of goal by Michael Cindric on 21 minutes. However, the next few minutes decided the course of the game in the favour of the visitors.

On 22 minutes, it became 2-1. Olympic failed to clear a loose ball on the edge of their area; Nikas raced onto it and sent a delightful reverse pass into the path of Jim Bakis, who motored on into the six-yard area and slid the ball expertly past Emmanouil.

A minute later, 3-1. Again, it was a through-ball from midfield that did the damage; Neil Jablonski won a tackle in midfield and released Boardman, whose left-foot shot Emmanouil had no chance of saving.

And on 25 minutes, 4-1. It was Jablonski at the heart of it again, receiving a crisp infield pass from Boardman and knocking it in the direction

of Bakis in the inside-right channel. The veteran again eluded the Olympic defence and slammed home an unstoppable right-footed shot. Nick Theodorakopoulos was stunned into action, removing makeshift central defender Peter McPherson, who had looked decidedly off the pace, in favour of the experienced Bobby Dragas. Sutherland, for their part, began to sit back and allow the hosts the majority of the possession. Just after the half-hour, a left-footed pile-driver from Ozbey on the edge of the area was deflected over the bar: from the resultant corner, Dragas headed inches wide of the far post.

And there was no shortage of effort from Olympic in a mediocre second period, but they failed to create many clear chances. Sutherland's play became loose and listless, but ultimately it mattered little.

Sutherland might have had a fifth soon afterwards, with Jablonski's low right-footed shot saved and Boardman being debatably called back for handball, when he tackled Emmanouil following a defensive mistake and slotted the ball home. The game then became bogged down in embryonic Olympic attacks and cheap turnovers by Sutherland, as several of the home supporters headed for the exit. Mayora provided some interest for those who remained with a header just over the bar on 77 minutes, and a thumping right-footed shot which pinged off the bar four minutes later. At the other end, Emmanouil was lucky not to concede another when he fumbled a shot from substitute Matthew Villazon, who had been teed up by his fellow sub Matthew Hall. Fortunately for the Olympic gloveman, he scrambled back to gather the ball on the line. A precious three points for the Sharks, and a disastrous afternoon for Nick Theodorakopoulos' team.

FNSW RD 10 RESULTS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Sydney United	10	8	2	0	24	6	18	26
2	Manly United FC	10	5	4	1	16	9	7	19
3	Marconi Stallions	10	5	3	2	24	9	15	18
4	Sutherland Sharks	10	5	3	2	24	13	11	18
5	Sydney Olympic	10	5	0	5	21	22	-1	15
6	Blacktown City	10	3	4	3	12	14	-2	13
7	Bankstown City	10	3	3	4	12	12	0	12
8	Penrith Nepean U	10	3	3	4	10	16	-6	12
9	Sydney Tigers	10	3	1	6	13	17	-4	10
10	Bonnyrigg W	10	2	4	4	15	23	-8	10

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Milorad Simonovic 73m) Marconi Stallions 5 (Ali Al-Hilfi 5/85m Ousmane Toure 38m Vamana Diarra 51m Nahuel Arrarte 66m), Manly United FC 2 (Bradley Groves 55m Michael Lloyd-Green 84m) Bankstown City 0, Sydney Tigers 2 (Jamie McMaster 16m Robert Younis 84m) West Sydney Berries 0, Blacktown City Demons 3 (Ante Deur 19m Christopher Bedzo 74m Raymond Miller 88m) Wollongong FC 0, Penrith Nepean United 0 Sydney United 4 (Sam Munro 51m Ricky Perinich 63m Elsid Barkhousir 76m Luka Glavas 83m), Sydney Olympic 1 (Chris Triantis 4m Pen) Sutherland Sharks 4 (Panagiotis Nikas 8m Jim Bakis 21/24m Bradley Boardman 23m).

By Mike Salter
In Sydney

STH HOBART FALTER IN DOUBLE QUEST

Hobart Zebras opened up a 2-point lead over second-placed South Hobart at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder with a 5-2 away win over fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park last Sunday.

Jayden Welch hit a fine hat-trick for the Zebras, whose other goals, from Ben Crosswell and Ricky Self, were outstanding. Tom McDonald and Greg Freeman had both given Kingborough the lead in the first half, only to be pegged back each time by Zebras, who led 3-2 at the interval.

This past weekend, it was time for State-wide Cup action and the cup-holders were bundled out.

Four southern and four northern sides qualified for the quarterfinals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy state-wide competition on Saturday.

Clarence United, University, Glenorchy Knights and Hobart Zebras are through from the south, while northern outfits Somerset, Northern Rangers, Riverside Olympic and Prospect Knights were successful.

A first-half strike by Andy Barron and a second-half penalty by Luke Cripps gave Clarence a 2-0 away win over Devonport City at Valley Road.

A second-half goal by Jade Clay gave the Knights a 1-0 win over trophy-holder South Hobart, at South Hobart.

South lost goalkeeper Sam Kruijver with a dislocated shoulder after only five minutes following an aerial clash with Corey Smith.



Ulverstone... bundled out of State-wide Cup by Northern neighbours

Tom Sherman's cross from the left in the 51st minute found Clay, whose first shot was parried by replacement keeper Mark Moncur, but Clay netted from the rebound.

Goals by Nick Reed, Garry Hamilton, Toby Skene and James Nettleton gave Somerset a 4-1 win over Hobart Olympic, who replied through Emmanuel Tsakiris.

Andrew Nicholson have Northern Rangers a 1-0 half-time lead away to Ulverstone, whole second-half strikes by Todd Hingston and Mark Ambrose sealed the game.

Ethan Olner, with two goals, and one apiece by Colin Jackson, Ben Taylor and Stephen Gulbrandson saw Riverside Olympic down the visiting Nelson Eastern Suburbs 5-1. Tom Gordon netted Nelson's con-

solation goal. Beachside held Hobart Zebras to a goalless opening half before Brayden Pace fired Zebras ahead in the 57th minute.

Jayden Welch then netted twice for the visitors to make it 3-0 before Colin Wain pulled a goal back for Beachside a minute from the end.

Ricky Self got on to the end of an Aaron Brazendale corner in the final minute and headed Zebras' fourth.

Adam McKeown put New Town Eagles ahead against University, but an equaliser by Eddie Opira took the game into extra-time.

A penalty shoot-out decided the outcome after there was no further score and Univer-

sity won that showdown 3-1 through successful spot-kicks by the experienced trio of Nigel Blundell, Aaron Hindmarsh and Iain Fletcher.

Wade Savage was the only successful penalty taker for Eagles, with Alex Gordon, Mark Page and McKeown having their efforts saved by Hamish Peacock.

University's Bryn Griffiths was denied by Eagles keeper Craig Minty for University's only miss.

By Walter Pless
Photo by Walter Pless

TAS NORTHERN LEAGUE

	G	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northern Rangers	5	4	1	0	14	5	13
Devonport City	5	4	0	1	19	10	12
Prospect Knights	5	3	1	1	13	5	10
Somerset	6	3	0	3	19	10	9
Ulverstone	6	3	0	3	11	13	9
Riverside Olympic	5	2	0	3	13	13	6
Burnie United	6	2	0	4	14	16	6
Launceston City	5	2	0	3	8	12	6

TAS SOUTHERN LEAGUE

	G	W	D	L	F	A	P
Tilford Zebras	8	6	1	1	28	15	19
South Hobart	8	5	2	1	16	3	17
Clarence United	8	4	2	2	17	13	14
Kingborough Lions	8	3	3	2	25	22	12
Glenorchy Knights	8	4	0	4	18	23	12
New Town Eagles	8	3	0	5	16	21	9
Hobart Olympic	8	2	1	5	13	16	7
University	8	0	1	7	3	23	1

‘POOL RETURN TO SUMMIT

Spanish And Italian Titles Almost Decided

ENGLAND
Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres were back in tandem to devastating effect as Liverpool returned to the Premier League summit - at least temporarily - with a comfortable victory at West Ham United.

Liverpool’s captain and the Spain striker were making only their 12th league appearance of the season together at Upton Park.

And they gave a demonstration of what Liverpool have missed in their absence as they spear-headed the win that put Rafael Benítez’s side back on top of the table on goal difference - although title favourites Manchester United crucially have two games in hand.

The pair combined as Liverpool took the lead inside two minutes when Torres unlocked the West Ham defence with a perfect pass that allowed Gerrard to run clear and round West Ham keeper Robert Green to finish in style.

And, when Torres was fouled by Luis Boa Morte seven minutes before the interval, Gerrard scored from a rebound after his penalty was saved by Green.

Liverpool wrapped up the formalities six minutes from time when substitute Ryan Babel scored from Dirk Kuyt’s cross after his first effort was blocked by the unfortunate Green.

West Ham entered the game with their sights set on qualifying for the Europa League via seventh place, but they never recovered from Gerrard’s opening salvo and anxious moments were few and far between for Liverpool.

It crowned an efficient display from Liverpool - and at least gave Manchester United food for thought ahead of the derby at Old Trafford over-night.

Everton keeper Tim Howard set a new club record of 16 clean sheets in a disappointing 0-0 match against **Tottenham Hotspur**, in which neither side had many threats on goal.

While Howard usurped Neville Southall’s record of 15 clean league sheets set back in 1996, the USA international and opposite number Heurleho Gomes were rarely tested in a game bereft of genuine goal-scoring chances.

Blackburn all but sealed their Premier League place with a comfortable 2-0 win over a **Portsmouth** side still desperately seeking the win they need to survive.

Rovers’ win means they can only now be relegated on goal difference, though a Monday night draw between Newcastle and Middlesbrough would guarantee safety for Sam Allardyce’s side.

Relegation-threatened **Sunderland** had to settle for a point despite dominating much of the 0-0 game against **Bolton** at the Reebok Stadium.

Sunderland’s attention will now turn to Monday’s match between their struggling North-East rivals Newcastle and Middlesbrough.

A victory for either side in that game would drag Ricky Sbragia’s men closer to the bottom three.

Fulham boosted their European hopes as they overcame **Aston Villa**.

The hosts opened the scoring when James Milner conceded a penalty for a push on Diomansy Kamara and the impressive Danny Murphy stroked in the spot-kick.

Ashley Young equalised when he rifled the ball into the top corner but he later hit the post from six yards.

Fulham regained the lead when Kamara arrowed in a diagonal shot and the striker made it 3-1 with a cheeky back-heel flick from a free-kick.

Meanwhile, two goals from Marc-Antoine Fortune handed **West Brom** a 3-1 victory against **Wigan** and gave the side a huge boost in their fight to avoid the drop.

Fortune gave his side the lead when he headed in from close range after Gianni Zuiverloon’s shot was parried.

Hugo Rodallega equalised when his low free-kick squeezed past Dean Kiely.

Chris Brunt then scored from the spot after Titus Bramble tripped Fortune, who later rifled in the



Liverpool’s Steve Gerrard scores against West Ham

Baggies’ third from just inside the area. West Brom remain bottom on 31 points but only on goal difference.

And with fourth-from-bottom **Hull** stuck on 34 points after 2-1 defeat by **Stoke** and two of bottom three, **Newcastle and Middlesbrough**, playing each other on Monday, the Baggies have a chance to of performing the great escape.

SCOTLAND
Rangers took a two-point advantage in the SPL title race with three games to play thanks to a 1-0 derby win over Celtic at Ibrox.

As the game was settling after a hectic start Kenny Miller crossed for Steven Davis to score from close range on 37 minutes.

Davis then stopped an equaliser before the break by clearing Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink’s header off the line.

Celtic had the better of the second half, but Rangers’ Kris Boyd was superbly denied by keeper Artur Boruc.

The visitors began the match with a one-point advantage at the top of the table.

But, despite the stakes in terms of the title race, neither side showed signs of apprehension in the early stages as play raged around the slick Ibrox pitch at an astonishing pace.

GERMANY
Germany striker Mario Gomez scored all four goals in Stuttgart’s 4-1 win over Bundesliga leaders Wolfsburg Saturday to blow the title race wide open.

With **Bayern Munich, Hertha Berlin and Stuttgart** all picking up three points, there is now just two points separating the top four sides in the German league with only three games left.

It could be five teams just two points apart if **Hamburg** beat **Werder Bremen** on Sunday with the title almost certain to be decided on the last day of the season on May 23.

Gomez is now the league’s joint top-scorer alongside Wolfsburg’s Brazilian striker Grafite with the pair on 23 goals after Gomez’s quartet sealed the 4-1 win.

Defending champions **Bayern Munich** drew level with **Wolfsburg** on 60 points and are only second on goal difference after their 3-1 win at Energie Cottbus.

French midfielder star Franck Ribery, who was linked with a move to Manchester United last week, was left on the bench, but Bayern took the lead through Argentina striker Jose Ernesto Sosa on 23 minutes.

Cottbus midfielder Ivica Iliev equalised on 44 minutes, but Bayern went ahead on 62 minutes when Argentina defender Martin Demichelis headered home a Lukas Podolski corner.

A late goal from Podolski sealed the 3-1 win, but in injury time Ribery missed a late penalty.

Hertha Berlin’s 2-0 win at home to strugglers

Bochum puts them just a point away from the leaders.

Dortmund’s seventh consecutive win sealed a 4-0 victory over **Karlsruhe** and means they have made a late bid for the Bundesliga title as they move into fifth and could now claim a European place for next season.

Hoffenheim ended their 12-game winless streak with a 2-0 victory over **Cologne** as **Eintracht Frankfurt** and **Hanover** drew 1-1.

Arminia Bielefeld gave themselves a good chance of surviving relegation with a 2-2 draw at **Bayer Leverkusen** on Friday night.

SPAIN
Barcelona can win the Spanish league for the 19th time on Sunday after double champions Real Madrid waved the white flag in the title race with a 3-0 loss at Valencia on Saturday.

Real trail Barcelona by seven points and Pep Guardiola’s side will be crowned champions with three games to spare if they can beat Villarreal at Camp Nou on Sunday.

Real were still reeling from their 6-2 drubbing by Barcelona last Saturday in ‘El Clasico’ and they were outclassed again as two goals in three minutes laid the foundations for a comfortable Valencia win.

Juan Mata, a youth product let go by Real in 2007, scored his 11th goal of the season on 29 minutes before David Silva, a Real transfer target, netted a second in the 32nd minute.

Valencia move four points behind Sevilla, 3-1 winners over **Real Mallorca** on Saturday, and more importantly, open a four-point gap over Champions League rivals Atletico Madrid and Villarreal who both play Sunday.

ITALY
Claudio Ranieri could be about to take charge of his final match in the Juventus hot-seat as the Italian giants travel to AC Milan this weekend.

The Old Lady of Turin have not won in their last five Serie A matches and now sit third in the table, 11 points behind leaders **Inter Milan** and four behind second-placed Milan with four matches left.

A defeat would all but mathematically end their hopes of a top two finish and speculation in the Italian press this week claims that such a scenario would see the former Chelsea and Valencia boss shown the door.

Whilst **Milan’s** recent resurgence has seen them charge up the table, if they do lose to Juve, bitter city rivals Inter could claim the title.

Jose Mourinho’s team travel to Verona to face **Chievo** in the first of potentially four championship deciders.

With a seven-point lead over Milan, Inter could win the title at any moment in the next four matches.

EPL STANDINGS				
	P	GD	PTS	
1 Liverpool	36	46	80	
2 Man Utd	34	40	80	
3 Chelsea	35	38	74	
4 Arsenal	35	31	68	
5 Aston Villa	36	5	58	
6 Everton	36	14	57	
7 Fulham	36	6	50	
8 Tottenham	36	1	48	
9 West Ham	36	-2	48	
10 Man City	35	10	47	
11 Wigan	35	-9	42	
12 Stoke	36	-16	42	
13 Bolton	36	-11	40	
14 Blackburn	36	-18	40	
15 Portsmouth	36	-20	38	
16 Sunderland	36	-17	36	
17 Hull	36	-24	34	
18 Newcastle	35	-19	31	
19 Middlesbrough	35	-26	31	
20 West Brom	36	-29	31	

BUNDESLIGA STANDINGS				
	P	GD	PTS	
1 Wolfsburg	31	27	60	
2 Bayern Munich	31	25	60	
3 VfB Stuttgart	31	18	58	
4 Hertha Berlin	30	10	58	
5 Borussia Dortmund	31	20	55	
6 Hamburg	29	2	54	
7 Schalke 04	30	15	49	
8 TSG Hoffenheim	31	11	48	
9 Bayer Leverkusen	31	14	46	
10 Werder Bremen	30	13	39	
11 Hannover 96	31	-16	36	
12 Cologne	31	-15	35	
13 Eintracht Frankfurt	31	-13	33	
14 VfL Bochum	31	-16	28	
15 Arminia Bielefeld	31	-19	27	
16 Cottbus	31	-27	27	
17 Borussia M'gladbach	30	-20	24	
18 Karlsruhe	31	-29	23	

SPL STANDINGS				
	P	GD	PTS	
1 Rangers	35	45	79	
2 Celtic	35	46	77	
3 Hearts	35	0	54	
4 Dundee Utd	35	4	53	
5 Aberdeen	35	1	49	
6 Hibernian	35	-3	45	

SERIE A STANDINGS				
	P	GD	PTS	
1 Inter Milan	34	35	77	
2 AC Milan	34	35	70	
3 Juventus	34	27	66	
4 Fiorentina	34	14	61	
5 Genoa	34	13	60	
6 Roma	34	0	53	
7 Palermo	34	6	52	

PRIMERA LIGA				
	P	GD	PTS	
1 Barcelona	34	72	85	
2 Real Madrid	35	35	78	
3 Sevilla	35	12	63	
4 Valencia	35	15	59	
5 Atletico Madrid	34	15	55	
6 Villarreal	34	3	55	
7 Deportivo La Coruna	34	1	53	

By Julius Ross

Photos by Soccer Way

ON THE ORIGINS OF SUPPORTERS

Showing One's True Colours

I find myself in a reoccurring position at this point in the year. Attention affixed to the lower league play-offs of England, hoping that my football gaze will be redirected to the Championship next year; but equally prepared for another year of League One anonymity.

In this moment, I ponder the origins of individual football allegiance.

Many don't have a choice: a supporter from birth, indoctrinated in an era of vulnerability. At the most impressionable stage of their lives, children are draped in a team's colours, oblivious to the significance of their garments. Unaware that imposed support for Middlesbrough is tantamount to having vinegar poured in your eyes on a weekly basis or that Scunthorpe United aren't likely to be a powerhouse anytime soon.

All parents want the best for their children. The most blessed of opportunities. Does wanting the best for the little tacklers not extend to providing them with a team that is likely to win more than five times a season?

A trip to the football unveils many a child in the midst of programming, parents implanting the seeds of support that will have fully bloomed by the time the tot is aware of its existence. Think of the pain to be inflicted. The potential for enduring under-achievement. Dashed hopes. Schoolyard taunts. Would it be beyond reason to suggest it a form of child abuse? Probably – just. But how could a parent teach otherwise? Club support is as hereditary as hair, eye and skin colour. It links parent to offspring. Morals, ethics and religious beliefs are preset in childhood, but even these seem more open to change than team loyalty. Amongst those with a true sense of the game, switching teams is beyond blasphemy – it's downright treason! You are as likely to uncover a born-again Christian in your daily life as you are a born-again Chelsea fan.

"Don't change horse midstream" political re-election campaigns often spout, imploring voters to re-instate the incumbent. Typically the words of a sinking



The ugly ones will love ya! Not every one can barrack for Man United.

politician choking on diminishing political oxygen, but in football it commands adherence.

For some (ie. me), membership will not come at birth. Selection will be made through their own process of vetting and influence.

The freedom to set one's own allegiance comes with great responsibility and requires meticulous thought. Choose a thriving club in the midst of success without justification and you'll be seen to be climbing aboard the slow passing bandwagon that moves across town.

Assistance will abound when in the

search for a football soul-mate. The pursuit initiates a fervent recruitment drive; it's a chance for the established supporter to influence the uninitiated and bolster the ranks of their club. Each will espouse the merits of their clubs, the benefits of being part of their legion; passionately spruiking their club's vari-

You are as likely to uncover a born-again Christian in your daily life as you are a born-again Chelsea fan.

ous virtues with scant mention of shortcomings.

"Well, we've won three European trophies and 10 league titles – join us," erupts the persuasive cry from one camp. "No, no you don't want to choose them, they've done nothing recently; we've made the Champion's League semi-finals four years in a row – become one of us," an opposing recruiter responds.

What next? An unrelenting ring of the doorbell on a Sunday morning, disturbing a deep weekend slumber to proffer pamphlets and advice on the right team for you? "Good morning. We're Arsenal supporters and we'd like to take a moment of your time to talk to you about Arsenal Football Club and the way it can change your life," the two identically clad gentlemen on doorstep would intone, their matching bicycles gleaming in the background.

Such pressure placed on the selection process. A decision one way may affect relationships and set a path of sporting rivalry or disappointment. A life partnership is to be set. Such care in selection is called for when choosing a companion for life. Filing for divorce isn't an option in this matrimony. There is no escape through the completion of standard paperwork: contradictory opinions on team selection don't qualify as 'irreconcilable differences'.

Suddenly the wanton selection process of the casual female supporter seems reasonable: "Ohhhh, I love their baby blue uniform, I must go for them!" Or the no less scientific: "He's hot! What's his name? I'm definitely going for them!"

Maybe a pre-programmed, hereditary association isn't so bad after all? A birth-right which doesn't require a justification: "Because my dad went for them" a sufficient riposte to lifetime inquisitions.

So my own self-determined affiliation is again a juncture of importance. Success and an ascent into the Championship will put us on closer terms and allow us more time together. Now to find a venue screening the forgotten contests of League One.



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ONLY THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE

Who's Got What It Takes To Take A Tilt At The EPL?

Even though the English Premier League is a couple of games from being over, we have yet to discover which three teams will have to spend next season in the Championship.

However, as the Championship has concluded, we do know the teams which will replace them; Wolverhampton Wanderers, Birmingham City and one from Reading, Sheffield United, Burnley and Preston. But what exactly does it take to be a success in the top English division? And do any of the soon to be promoted sides have what it takes to stay around for longer than just a solitary season?

There is certainly no magic formula to make any side instantly successful in the Premier League. During the course of a season there are many factors, some controllable and some not, which define how well or badly a team will do. Yet there are ways that a club can give themselves the best opportunity to ensure either their success, or simply their survival. And it is in these key areas that the newly promoted clubs for next season need to be strong, because otherwise they could be yet another one season wonder in the top league.

Firstly, in terms of the players on the field, there are three main areas that a promoted side need quality; in goal, in central defence, and up front. The first two mentioned are crucial as any side which is coming up against great attacking talent every week will need to be concede as few goals as possible, which in turn would help them attain as many points as they can. And on the flip side of that coin they need a proven goalscorer leading their line. The Championship is full of strikers that can score goals at that level, yet when they come up to the big leagues they struggle to put the ball in the net. Now I'm not saying that every striker needs to score huge amounts, but every team does need at least one guy who can bag a goal in big games. Often one man can be the difference between survival and failure.

As well as having quality, a good promoted squad will also have experience. If, either as a club or as individuals, a promoted side have had recent experience in the top league, the chances of their survival are greatly increased. Players that have played at the top level understand what it takes to play against very good opposition every week, as well as playing against teams which are markedly better than you. Most successful teams, not only in terms of Premiership survival but also in terms of actual success, have a blend of youthful exuberance combined with older, and wiser, understanding.



Wolves have been a howling success this season, romping away with the English Championship. Will they have enough bite for the EPL?

The final area in which a promoted side need to be strong is generally found walking up and down the touchline during games; the manager. A great manager can make any team better than they actually are, and can make players believe in themselves more than they thought possible. If survival is often a battle, then the managers are the generals who need to inspire their troops into not only fighting, but into winning.

Most successful teams, not only in terms of Premiership survival but also in terms of actual success, have a blend of youthful exuberance combined with older, and wiser, understanding.

Of course, there are other areas in which it helps to be good, for example shroud transfers dealings can boost a team's morale, as can great home attendances and massive crowd support. Yet these are often not as controllable or as stable as clubs would like, and so they cannot be depended upon. Instead, clubs must insure that they have the quality, experience, and good management which are needed to stay in the top division.

Just look at the teams which could be going down this season. West Brom, Boro, Newcastle and Hull have all been weak at the back, and have not really had anyone to put the ball in the net at the other end. Granted, Michael Owen is a goalscorer, but

he has been injured most of the season. And although Geovanni has done well at Hull, he is not a goalscorer. Also, the managers at those clubs lack any major experience. I'm certain that if Newcastle had kept Sam Allardyce in charge they would be safe by now.

So if we can identify what a team needs to be successful in the Premier League, can we see any soon to be promoted sides with such qualities?

The four teams which will contend the playoffs have all had good seasons, yet they all have their own shortcomings. Both Sheffield United and Reading have very similar squads as to when they were relegated in 07 and 08 respectively, and although that does suggest a certain amount of experience in the team, it does also suggest that if they have not improved the quality of the squad then there is no reason to suggest that they will survive next year where they failed before. Neither side have a major goalscorer, and both have weaknesses at the back. One advantage that Reading has is that their manager, Steve Coppell, is very experienced and could be able to mastermind some success in the Premier League, as they did when they came up in 06.

The other playoff teams, Burnley and Preston, are relatively inexperienced at the top level of football. Burnley have an effective attack which scores plenty of goals, yet they leak goals at the back. They play in a similar fashion as to how West Brom played last year, which suggests they may also be at the bottom of the Premier League next

year. They have proven that they can play well against the big teams, as they did well in both the Carling and FA Cup this year, beating several top flight opposition during their cup runs, yet a Premiership season is very different to a cup competition, and they would go into the season, much like their manager, as unproven at the top level. Preston also have an inexperienced manager, and their squad seems to lack depth and overall quality, so I cannot really see them getting further than the playoffs this year, and if they did, I see them very much struggling in the Premier League next season.

The two teams which will definitely be in the Premier League next year are Wolves and Birmingham. Wolves won the Championship this year due to their strength up front, and their dogged determination which has been installed in them by their manager Mick McCarthy. On the surface they could be good contenders to stay up next season, as they have a solid goalscorer in Ebanks-Blake, and they have some Premier League experience. Also, their manager has been around the block, and could help them attain Premier League status. However, I worry about them at the back, as I feel that although they may be ok going forward, they will also be leaking goals, which ultimately can spell disaster for any promoted side.

The club which I believe has the best chance of staying in the top flight next year is Birmingham. They have a great, experienced manager in Alex McLeish, who has won league titles with Rangers in Scotland, and has managed the Scottish national team. The squad itself is made up of a mix of older and younger players, most of whom have some Premier League experience. They also have a solid defence combined with goalscorers, such as Kevin Phillips and James McFadden, up front. I wouldn't be in any way surprised if the Brummies finished in mid-table next season.

Ultimately, however, as I have suggested, it is very difficult to predict how well any team will do in the Premier League. Almost nobody gave either Stoke or Hull hope of staying in the top flight this season, yet both could stay up. Although there are always some key indicators as to how well a team will do, one can never accurately predict exactly how a season will go. All that the promoted sides can be sure of, however, is that they will be tested in every game of the season, and they need to be ready for the fight. As West Ham would attest to, it's great to be in the Premier League, but it's bloody hard to stay there.

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ENGLISH COACHES – AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

With many of the promotion issues settled in the lower leagues of English football, a trend that started nearly two decades ago sees no sign of abating.

Out of the three promotion places up for grabs to the EPL at least two of the promoted clubs will have non-English coaches/managers.

English managers like Tony Mowbray, Gareth Southgate and Alan Shearer seem destined for the drop, to be replaced by Alex McLeish and Mick McCarthy – a Scot and an Irishman.

Is this really a problem? If so what is the answer?

It is if we are looking for English coaching talent to take over from Fabio Capello. The problem is English coaches are hired too soon and fired too soon. The situation was highlighted by Gary Neville when he suggested that too many coaches were being hired that hadn't the necessary UEFA coaching licences. Alan Shearer is one but there are other examples.

The answer is for coaches to serve longer apprenticeships in the lower leagues, to gain qualifications, prove themselves and get gradual promotions through the league ranks, just like in any normal workplace. Occasionally there will be some coaches that don't need that gradual progression but as time has told us these are few and far between.

Countries like Germany, Italy, Spain and France have a top league stacked with indigenous managers and coaches. I'm not here to say if this is a good thing or a bad thing, just to point it out. These coaches and managers in other countries have, for the most part, progressed the old fashioned way, through experience and not as much through playing achievement.



Foreign coaches have certainly made their mark on English shores.

The question is though where have the young English coaches all gone?

Tony Adams and Paul Ince were sacked after a few months in charge of Portsmouth and Blackburn respectively. They were replaced by more experienced men in Paul Hart and Sam Allardyce. When there is a rare new vacancy at the bigger clubs like Liverpool or Chelsea the names thrown about are usually Italian, Spanish or Dutch, guys with a wealth of experience.

How did this come about? Chelsea were known for their English coaches, having been managed previously by Glenn Hoddle and John Hollins and Liverpool had an extensive history of English coaches like Roy Evans and Bill Shankly.

So what changed? The Premier League happened. With the advent of the TV money more foreign players and inevitably coaches were attracted to the EPL. British managers had a reputation of playing a long ball 'up and at em' style that, as prices

rose, fans were reluctant to see. Football became entertainment.

Coaches from the continent were perceived as having more sophistication in the areas of tactics with more advanced coaching methods and nutrition. The main problem we have now is that English coaches are becoming even less of a species in their bread and butter, the second tier of English football, the Coca Cola Championship.

As stated earlier, the biggest problem can be that English managers, especially those who were distinguished players, are in charge of clubs too soon. With any new manager, more so with one that is unproven in the top flight, there is an element of risk. If things go wrong early in their reign they are lampooned by fans and targeted by the media.

Take Blackburn as a case in point. There was talk of disquiet amongst the players and unrest amongst the fans barely a few months into Ince's reign. Taking all the

factors into account it is no wonder chairmen pull the trigger, and far too quickly in my opinion.

Ince and Adams had not fully served their apprenticeships like in the old days. Ince managed at Swindon Town, Macclesfield and the Milton Keynes Dons, whereas Adams endured an unsuccessful spell at Wycombe, trained to coach in Holland at Feyenoord and Utrecht and was an assistant coach at Portsmouth for a few years under Harry Redknapp.

The point is neither managed in the tier just below the EPL, they were given the keys to the kingdom without proving they had the credentials to reign and once given them were ousted even quicker when results turned.

The other British coaches have more extensive experience. Take Birmingham's Alex McLeish, he is an ex-Motherwell, Hibernian, Rangers and Scotland manager. Mick McCarthy managed Millwall, the Republic of Ireland and Sunderland before getting promoted with Wolves.

Why is it different in other countries like Italy, Germany where indigenous people make up the majority of managers and coaches. The reason for the prevalence non-English coaches is that historically the language of football is English and therefore the language isn't so much of a barrier, even to non-British coaches. In Germany, they have Swiss and Austrian coaches and players, just as in England we have Scottish, Irish and Welsh coaches, though not to the same extent.

Whatever the nationality of a coach, the apprenticeship should be more or less the same, serve in the lower leagues and gradually get four to five years experience until one of the EPL clubs knock on your door.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LOTTERY OF PENALTIES AND AWAY GOALS

I watched the two UCL semis and the UEFA cup semis last week, and aside from the number of times players fell over with less contact than you'd get queuing for a curry, I was struck by the number of times the away goals rule and penalties was mentioned.

I've never much been a fan of penalty shoot-outs. To decide the winner of a game by such means seems artificial. I also have a dislike for the away goals rule. One alternative to this would be to forget the away goals rule altogether. The trouble is this would result in more extra time and penalty shoot outs as games end in draws. My alternative would be to only count away goals at the end of extra time.

This would not have helped Barcelona in midweek as instead of qualifying within

the 90 minutes they would have to have survived another thirty with 10 men. Werder Bremen would have had to brave the 30 minutes of extra time in their game with Hamburg.

My point is that there is no logical reason why away goals should count double. It is just seen as an accepted part of football. Surely a simple aggregate formula without away goals will still produce the correct winner, i.e. the best team. As a compromise if the scores are level after extra time then away goals could be counted, just as happens in the league cup in England over two legs.

But what happens if both games end 1-1 or 0-0? I am an advocate of avoiding the penalty shoot-out at all costs so my answer would be that if the scores are level both teams should play on with coaches allowed

unlimited substitutions.

American sports are a prime example. In the ice hockey playoffs they play on until a sudden death goal is scored and it is the same in other sports, the teams play on until a winner is found.

Perhaps to aid this every five minutes each team should lose a man until a goal is scored or until both or one team has seven players, surely there will be enough space on the pitch for one team will score a goal?

Another alternative that has been suggested is to have the penalty shootout before the extra-time, that way each team knows what it must do during extra time. I still maintain my original stance that shoot outs are for police officers and video games.

The Away Goal: Ecstasy for some, agony for others.



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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: South-East: St. Kevins 2 (A Fehervari 2) Dandenong Warriors 1 (A Khatchatrian), Manningham 1 (R Rositano) Caulfield Grammarians 3 (J Schmidt 2 M Davies), Harrisfield Hurricanes 1 (J Hodges) Parkmore 2 (M Piga A Jovanovic), Res: St. Kevins 3 Dandenong Warriors 8, Manningham 3 Caulfield Grammarians 1, Harrisfield Hurricanes 1 Parkmore 3

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: Div 1: Altona City 5 (CR Crisostomo S Sikic E Fonua 2) Ballarat Utd 0, Devils (BDSA) 1 (BL Taylor), Bayswater Strikers 5 (K Harrold E Doughty 2 G Murphy E Murray-Bartlett) Whittlesea Stallions 2 (P Morihovitis S Fedele), South Springvale 2 (T Armen M Batinic) South Yarra 0, Brighton 1 (M Wyszomirska) Whitehorse Utd 0, Uni. of Melbourne 4 (L Wright AA Gerner E Colley N Vincent) Monbulk 0, Res: Altona City 2 Ballarat Lady Devils (BDSA) 3, Bayswater Strikers 10 Whittlesea Stallions 1, South Springvale 3 South Yarra 1, Brighton 3 Whitehorse Utd 0, Uni. of Melbourne 5 Monbulk 0

Div 2 North-West: Fawkner Blues 3 (I Sakel-Iaropoulos 2 M Malaniuk) Melbourne Bears 0, La Trobe University 2 (J Marum R Holgate V Pettit) Bundoora Utd 2, Darebin Falcons 1 (NK Morgan) North Geelong 1, Melton 0 Western Eagles 3 (B Kean G McGrory-Perich 2)

Div 2 South-East: Sandringham 1 (L Toovey) Doncaster Rovers 2 (R Payne N Exon), Mooroolbark 1 Ashburton 1, Beaumaris 4 (R Evans T Brown T Kiddle 2) Monash University 3, Berwick City 10 (S Anthony 2 E Heeger (Rault) S Ryan 2 T Eliadis 4 A Ravi) Mornington Flames 1 (KE Tellefson), Southern Suburbs 0 Albert Park WSC 1 (SV Schnepf-Baker)

Div 3 North-West: Sunshine Georgies 0 FC Bulleen Lions 9 (C Garra S Lockhart J Dai Pos A Beagley 2 J Madafferi M Simonetti 3), Epping City 0 Cairnlea WSC 7 (D Mutluel 4 S Calleja 2 A Niyazi), Keilor Park 1 (CS Wylie-O'Brien) Diamond Valley Utd 2 (L Greco B Prestigiacomio), Melbourne Tornado 0 Brunswick Zebras 11 (K Alexander 2 A Gaetano 2 EK Johns 7),

Div 3 South-East: Ashburton 1 (S Jeffreson) Noble Park 3 (S Davies A Vasiljevic R Kok), Endeavour Utd 5 (K Fernandes 3 S Williamson TI Lexton) South Melbourne 2 (AC O'Connell 2), Knox City 0 North Caulfield 5

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: North-West: Brunswick City 11 Tullamarine Jets 1, Lalor 2 Sydenham Park 1, Brunswick Zebras 1 (O Manzart) North City Lions 4

South-East: Monash University 0 Box Hill Inter 3 (C Keogh G Fielding),

Central: Uni. of Melbourne 0 Yarra Jets 4 (R Flannery 3 S Standfield), Sandringham 2 Watsonia Heights WSC 0

Mens Metropolitan League	South-East
	P W D L F A P T
Parkmore	4 4 0 0 12 3 12
Caulfield Grammarians	4 3 1 0 8 2 10
St. Kevins	5 3 0 2 6 5 9
Ringwood City	3 2 1 0 10 7 7
Harrisfield Hurricanes	4 1 0 3 8 11 3
Manningham	4 0 0 4 5 13 0
Dandenong Warriors	4 0 0 4 4 12 0

Mens Metropolitan League	South-East Reserves
	P W D L F A P T
Dandenong Warriors	4 4 0 0 22 7 12
Harrisfield Hurricanes	4 2 1 1 9 5 7
Parkmore	4 2 0 2 10 13 6
Caulfield Grammarians	4 2 0 2 7 11 6
St. Kevins	5 1 1 3 12 13 4
Manningham	4 1 1 2 5 10 4
Ringwood City	3 0 1 2 1 7 1

Womens State League Div 1	
	P W D L F A P T
Altona City	3 3 0 0 13 2 9
South Springvale	3 3 0 0 7 0 9
Bayswater Strikers	3 2 0 1 9 7 6
Ballarat Lady Devils (BDSA)	3 2 0 1 8 7 6
Brighton	3 2 0 1 4 4 6
South Yarra	3 1 0 2 6 4 3
Uni. of Melbourne	3 1 0 2 5 6 3
Whitehorse Utd	3 1 0 2 1 3 3
Monbulk	3 0 0 3 0 9 0
Whittlesea Stallions	3 0 0 3 3 14 0

Womens State League Div 1 Reserves	
	P W D L F A P T
Uni. of Melbourne	3 3 0 0 7 0 9
Brighton	3 3 0 0 5 0 9
South Springvale	3 2 1 0 11 3 7
Bayswater Strikers	3 1 1 1 15 7 4
Altona City	3 1 1 1 10 8 4
South Yarra	3 1 1 1 4 5 4
Ballarat Lady Devils (BDSA)	3 1 0 2 3 4 3
Monbulk	3 0 1 2 2 8 1
Whitehorse Utd	3 0 1 2 1 10 1
Whittlesea Stallions	3 0 0 3 2 15 0

Womens State League Div 2 North-West	
	P W D L F A P T
Bundoora Utd	3 2 1 0 16 3 7
Western Eagles	2 2 0 0 7 1 6
La Trobe University	2 1 1 0 6 2 4
Fawkner Blues	2 1 1 0 4 1 4
Western Suburbs	2 1 0 1 2 5 3
North Geelong	2 0 2 0 2 2 2
Darebin Falcons	3 0 1 2 3 9 1
Melbourne Bears	1 0 0 1 0 3 0
Melton	3 0 0 3 1 15 0

Womens State League Div 2 South-East	
	P W D L F A P T
Doncaster Rovers	3 3 0 0 8 4 9
Berwick City	3 2 1 0 25 2 7
Mornington Flames	3 2 0 1 10 12 6
Beaumaris	3 2 0 1 6 8 6
Ashburton	3 1 1 1 8 4 4
Albert Park WSC	3 1 1 1 2 2 4
Mooroolbark	3 1 1 1 3 5 4
Monash University	3 0 1 2 4 6 1
Sandringham	3 0 1 2 2 8 1
Southern Suburbs	3 0 0 3 1 18 0

Womens State League Div 3 North-West	
	P W D L F A P T
Cairnlea WSC	3 3 0 0 20 2 9
FC Bulleen Lions	3 2 0 1 15 4 6
Diamond Valley Utd	2 1 1 0 3 2 4
Brunswick Zebras	2 1 0 1 11 4 3
Epping City	2 1 0 1 2 8 3
Sunshine Georgies	3 0 1 2 1 19 1
Maribymong Utd	1 0 0 1 1 2 0
Keilor Park	1 0 0 1 1 2 0

Melbourne Tornado	1 0 0 1 0 11 0
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Womens State League Div 3 South-East	
	P W D L F A P T
Noble Park	3 3 0 0 13 1 9
Endeavour Utd	3 2 1 0 10 4 7
North Caulfield	1 1 0 0 5 0 3
Old Carey	2 1 0 1 9 6 3
East Bentleigh	1 1 0 0 3 2 3
Ashburton	3 0 1 2 5 10 1
South Melbourne	3 0 1 2 7 14 1
Knox City	3 0 1 2 0 12 1

Womens Metropolitan League North-West	
	P W D L F A P T
Brunswick City	2 2 0 0 14 2 6
North City Lions	2 2 0 0 6 2 6
Brunswick Zebras	3 1 0 2 14 7 3
Sydenham Park	2 1 0 1 6 2 3
Lalor	2 1 0 1 3 3 3
Mitchell Rangers	2 1 0 1 3 6 3
Melbourne Lions	0 0 0 0 0
Tullamarine Jets	3 0 0 3 2 26 0

Womens Metropolitan League South-East	
	P W D L F A P T
Box Hill Inter	3 3 0 0 22 3 9
Croydon City Arrows	2 1 1 0 2 0 4
Langwarrin	1 1 0 0 1 0 3
Monash University	2 0 1 1 0 3 1
Bayswater Strikers	0 0 0 0 0
Ringwood City	2 0 0 2 0 3 0
Dandenong City	1 0 0 1 2 7 0
Dandenong Sparrows	1 0 0 1 1 12 0

Womens Metropolitan League Central	
	P W D L F A P T
Yarra Jets	3 3 0 0 11 0 9
Elwood City	2 2 0 0 11 0 6
DOC United WFC	2 1 1 0 5 0 4
Albert Park WSC	2 1 0 1 3 2 3
Sandringham	3 1 0 2 2 6 3
Watsonia Heights WSC	3 1 0 2 2 12 3
Uni. of Melbourne	2 0 1 1 0 4 1
Swinburne University WSC	1 0 0 1 0 3 0
Fitzroy City	2 0 0 2 0 7 0

Boys 18 Super League: Doncaster Rovers 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, South Melbourne 1 Essendon Royals 0, South Yarra 2 Fawkner 2, Sandringham City 2 Brighton 2, Keilor Park 4 Bundoora Utd 3, Green Gully 4 Springvale White Eagles 2

Boys S/E 16 Super: Mornington 1 FC Bulleen Lions 3, Berwick City 0 Oakleigh 6,

Boys S/E 15 Super: Peninsula 3 South Melbourne 0, Monash City 3 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Knox City 1 Richmond 2, Berwick City 5 Sandringham City 2, Oakleigh 2 Beaumaris 3

Boys S/E 14 Super: Mornington 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Monash City 0 Richmond 2, Berwick City 4 Sandringham City 1, Oakleigh 0 South Melbourne 5

Boys S/E 13 Super: Mornington 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Monash City 1 Richmond 4, South Eastern Piranhas 1 Sandringham City 1, Brighton 2 Knox City 1

Boys N/W 16 Super: Keilor Park 2 Melbourne Knights 1, Sunshine Georgies 2 Sunshine Heights 2, Preston Lions 1 Whittlesea Stallions 2,

Boys N/W 15 Super: Hume City 6 Brunswick City 1, Essendon Royals 4 Keilor Park 0, Epping City 0 Green Gully 2

Boys N/W 14 Super: Altona City 1 Bundoora Utd 3, North City Lions 1 Melbourne Knights 1, Essendon Royals 6 Gisborne 4, Brunswick Zebras 1 Whittlesea Stallions 0,

Boys N/W 13 Super: Hume City 1 Melbourne Knights 5, Hoppers Crossing 1 Brunswick City 5, Whittlesea Stallions 1 Light Utd 1, Epping City 2 Keilor Park 1 (M Galluccio), GRFA 0 Green Gully 1

Boys Metro 18 Blue: Pascoe Vale 5 Altona East 1, Cairnlea 3 Ballarat & District SA 3, Essendon Utd 0 Melbourne Phoenix 5, St. Albans 3 Oakleigh 3

Boys Metro 18 Purple: Richmond 5 Pascoe Vale 1, Preston Lions 2 Bentleigh Greens 2, Frankston Pines 2 Heidelberg Utd 1,

Boys 18 Sth: Casey Comets 2 0 Dandenong City 6, Berwick City 4 Brandon Park 2, Langwarrin 1 Baxter 2

Boys South 16 A: Dandenong Thunder 3 Peninsula 0, Langwarrin 1 East Bentleigh 4, Beaumaris 1 Brighton 3, Berwick City 0 Sandringham City 3,

Boys South 16 B: Carrum Utd 1 Springvale White Eagles 4, Beaumaris 0 Bayside Knights FC 13, Bentleigh Greens 2 Baxter 1, Endeavour Utd 0 Casey Comets 2

Boys South 15 A: Hampton 0 Brighton 3, Mornington 1 Hampton Park Utd 5, Bentleigh Greens 0 Sandringham City 0, Endeavour Utd 3 Noble Park 2

Boys South 15 B: Casey Comets 1 East Bentleigh 3, Langwarrin 1 Mornington 1, Berwick City 6 Seaford Utd 1, Bentleigh Greens 0 White Star Dandenong 3

Boys South 15 C: Hampton 4 Rosebud 1, Brighton 6 Baxter 0

Boys South 14 A: Berwick City 1 Doveton 3, Bentleigh Greens 0 Dandenong City 2, Endeavour Utd 5 East Bentleigh 1

Boys South 14 B: Carrum Utd 0 Brighton 1 2, Hampton 1 Peninsula 6, Langwarrin 0 Mornington 3, Brighton 2 0 Springvale White Eagles 3

Boys South 14 C: Cardinia United Junior Soccer Club 0 Hampton Park Utd 7, Bentleigh Greens 3 Lyndale Utd 1, Peninsula 1 Beaumaris 3

Boys South 13 A: Hampton 6 Casey Comets 4, Beaumaris 1 Bentleigh Greens 3, Berwick City 0 Sandringham City 1, Peninsula 0 Doveton 3

Boys South 13 B: South Springvale 4 Brighton 0, Hampton Park Utd 2 Dandenong Thunder 3, Langwarrin 0 Mornington 1, Berwick City 1 Bentleigh Greens 0,

Boys South 13 C: Hampton 2 East Bentleigh 0, Berwick City 0 Doveton 3,

Boys South 13 D: Carrum Utd 1 Peninsula 0, Cardinia United Junior Soccer Club 5 Rosebud 1, Beaumaris 1 1 Westportort SC 0, Casey Comets 6 Sandringham City 3, Seaford Utd 0 Baxter 5

Boys South 12 A: South Eastern Piranhas 0 Springvale

White Eagles 1, Mornington 0 GSL 0, Beaumaris 2 Southern Stars 0, Berwick City 4 Bentleigh Greens 2, Brighton 3 Langwarrin 1

Boys South 12 B: Endeavour Utd 3 Hampton Park Utd 6, Doveton 1 Mornington 1, Brandon Park 1 Sandringham City 1,

Boys South 12 C: Hampton 0 Brighton 2 0, Berwick City 1 Sandringham City 0, Brighton 1 6 Beaumaris 1

Boys South 12 D: Carrum Utd 5 Brighton 0, Beaumaris 0 Dandenong City 5, Peninsula 1 Baxter 1

Boys South 12 E: Langwarrin 2 White Star Dandenong 2, Lyndale Utd 3 Kingston City 1

Boys South 11 Green: Casey Comets 0 Peninsula 8, Mornington 3 Brighton 1, Beaumaris 0 Dandenong Thunder 3, Berwick City 13 Langwarrin 0, Aspendale 0 Hampton 2, Sandringham City 4 South Eastern Piranhas 0

Boys South 11 Red: Hampton 4 Heatherton Utd 1, Mornington 0 Brighton 1, Langwarrin 1 Sandringham City 1, Peninsula 4 Endeavour Utd 1

Boys South 11 Blue: Rosebud 0 Springvale White Eagles 8, Brighton 0 Doveton 8, Bentleigh Greens 3 Baxter 1

Boys South 11 Orange: Carrum Utd 6 Aspendale 1, Seaford Utd 5 Mornington 5, Berwick City 2 Hampton 0, Peninsula 4 Beaumaris 3

Boys Sth 11 Jo Gr: Brighton 2 3 Doveton 3, Brighton 1 3 Sandringham City 2, Berwick City 4 Beaumaris 0

Boys 18 Ea Or: Northcote City 0 North Caulfield 6, Manningham 19 Beaumaris 0, Riversdale 7 Sherbrooke Rangers 4, Whitehorse Utd 8 Nunawading City 1

Boys 18 Ea Yell: Oakleigh 3 Glen Waverley 3, Boronia 5 Waverley Victory FC 2, Eastern Lions 0 Knox City 3

Boys Sth Ea 13 D: Croydon City Arrows 1 Glen Waverley 2, Brighton 2 Ashburton 2, Doncaster Rovers 0 Hampton Park Utd 1

Boys East 16 A: Doncaster Rovers 4 Manningham 0, Oakleigh 3 Riversdale 1

Boys East 16 B: Richmond 2 Caulfield United Cobras 7, Port Melbourne 1 Ashburton 4, Whitehorse Utd 3 Brandon Park 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 North Caulfield 1

Boys East 16 C: Mooroolbark 1 Ringwood City 4, Ashburton 2 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, Glen Waverley 1 Boronia 6,

Boys East 15 A: Doncaster Rovers 0 Glen Waverley 0, Manningham 1 Malvern City 4, FC Bulleen Lions 0 Box Hill Inter 7, Casey Comets 1 Whitehorse Utd 4

Boys East 15 B: Doncaster Rovers 3 Waverley Wanderers 3, Richmond 2 Melbourne Phoenix 3, Whitehorse Utd 2 Knox City 1, Glen Waverley 0 Riversdale 7

Boys East 15 C: North Caulfield 3 Croydon City Arrows 0, Riversdale 1 Richmond 3, Mooroolbark 0 Nunawading City 2,

Boys East 15 D: Sherbrooke Rangers 18 Boronia 1, Croydon City Arrows 4 Rowville Eagles 1,

Boys East 14 A: Box Hill Inter 4 Boronia 2, South Melbourne 1 Knox City 1, Glen Waverley 1 Riversdale 2

Boys East 14 B: Port Melbourne 0 Waverley Wanderers 2, Ashburton 2 Ringwood City 2, Manningham 0 Waverley Victory FC 0, Mooroolbark 8 Nunawading City 0,

Boys East 14 C: Knox Utd 4 Glen Eira 0, Sherbrooke Rangers 7 Caulfield United Cobras 0, Oakleigh 3 Richmond 1, Whitehorse Utd 11 Ashburton 0, Eastern Lions 4 North Caulfield 1

Boys East 14 D: Doncaster Rovers 4 Glen Waverley 1, Knox Utd 1 Croydon City Arrows 7, Mooroolbark 1 Brandon Park 10,

Boys Ea 14 E: Malvern City 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, Eastern Lions 2 Rowville Eagles 7

Boys East 13 A: Doncaster Rovers 5 Glen Waverley 0, Richmond 1 North Caulfield 3, Box Hill Inter 1 Riversdale 2

Boys East 13 B: Ashburton 4 Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Richmond 3 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Whitehorse Utd 0 Doncaster Rovers 6, Boroondara Eagles 2 Croydon City Arrows 0

Boys East 13 C: Doncaster Rovers 3 Glen Waverley 2, Riversdale 1 Ashburton 1, Mooroolbark 2 Eastern Lions 1, Boroondara Eagles 1 North Caulfield 0

Boys East 12 A: Doncaster Rovers 7 Croydon City Arrows 0, Richmond 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Monash City 1 Hampton 1, Whitehorse Utd 1 Box Hill Inter 2, Eastern Lions 1 South Melbourne 1

Boys East 12 B: Box Hill Inter 1 Doncaster Rovers 2, Richmond 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Port Melbourne 0 Ashburton 2, Oakleigh 2 Knox Utd 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Knox City 2

Boys East 12 C: Caulfield United Cobras 0 Glen Waverley 4, Sherbrooke Rangers 2 Ringwood City 0, Manningham 1 Ashburton 1, Whitehorse Utd 6 Malvern City 0, Oakleigh 1 Riversdale 2

Boys East 12 D: Sherbrooke Rangers 3 Croydon City Arrows 0, Richmond 2 Whitehorse Utd 6, Boroondara Eagles 0 Waverley Wanderers 4

Boys East 12 E: Glen Eira 1 Glen Waverley 2 1, Ashburton 3 Whitehorse 1 1, Mooroolbark 6 Parkmore 1

Boys East 11 Green: Box Hill Inter 7 Croydon City Arrows 0, Ashburton 0 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Manningham 1 Whitehorse Utd 2, Oakleigh 0 Monash City 11, Malvern City 2 Knox City 3

Boys East 11 Ka Or: Doncaster Rovers 2 South Melbourne 1, Richmond 5 Ringwood City 0, FC Bulleen Lions 0 Eastern Lions 3 (L Morrey 2 C Mowat), Glen Waverley 1 Riversdale 0

Boys E11 Joey's Blue: Ashburton 1 Knox City 0, Mooroolbark 5 Whitehorse Utd 0, Boroondara Eagles 0 North Caulfield 1

Boys East 11 Orange: Boronia 1 Glen Waverley 0, Sherbrooke Rangers 5 Oakleigh 0, Riversdale 5 Ashburton 0,

Boys Ea 11 Jo Yell S: Croydon City Arrows 3 Montrose JSC 1 1, Mooroolbark 2 0 Oakleigh 2 14, Mooroolbark 1 6 Oakleigh 1 1

Boys Ea 11 Ka/Jo Yel: Doncaster Rovers 1 2 Glen Eira 3, Richmond 4 FC Bulleen Lions 3, Boroondara Eagles 6 Caulfield United Cobras 0

Boys 18 Nth : South Yarra 3 Sydenham Park 0, Brunswick City 2 Westvale 0, Brunswick Zebras 1 Tullamarine Jets 2

Boys North 16 A: Lalor Utd 5 Moreland City 0, Diamond Valley Utd 2 Fawkner 1,

Boys North 16 B: Heidelberg Stars 1 Brunswick City 3, Sunbury Utd 1 Light Utd 8, DOC United FC 3 Whittlesea Stallions 0

Boys North 15 A: Essendon Royals 1 Greenvale Utd 3, Moreland City 0 Fawkner 2, Hume Utd 0 Light Utd 0, Sunbury Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 11, Preston Lions 1 Brunswick Zebras 0

Boys North 15 B: Watsonia Heights 2 Northcote City 7, FC City Central 2 Meadow Park 2,

Boys Nth 15 C: Lalor Utd 2 DOC United FC 1, Yarra Jets 3 Cairnlea 0, Brunswick Zebras 6 Moreland Wolves 1, Banyule City 2 Heidelberg Utd 4

Boys North 14 A: Essendon Royals 3 Preston Lions 2, Moreland City 3 Fawkner 3, Hume Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 1, Brunswick City 7 Epping City 1, Diamond Valley Utd 0 Light Utd 7

Boys North 14 B: Bundoora Utd 3 Brunswick City 3, Yarra Jets 6 Alphington 0, Eltham North 1 Clifton Hill 5, Banyule City 1 Whittlesea Stallions 3

Boys North 14 C: Brunswick Zebras 1 DOC United FC 2, Fawkner 4 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Sunbury Utd 3 Moreland Utd 0, FC City Central 2 Essendon Utd 2

Boys North 13 A: Preston Lions 0 Greenvale Utd 4, Northcote City 0 Light Utd 2, Essendon Royals 0 Bundoora Utd 2, Moreland Utd 5 Brunswick Zebras 0

Boys North 13 B: Essendon Royals 5 Moreland Wolves 1, Lalor 1 North Lions 2, Heidelberg Utd 0 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Plenty Valley Lions 6 Alphington 5

Boys North 13 C: Bundoora Utd 0 Watsonia Heights 0, Yarra Jets 4 Melbourne Phoenix 3, Brunswick Zebras 14 Northcote City 0,

Boys North 12 A: Lalor Utd 1 St. Albans 2, Alphington 3 Fawkner 3, Sunbury Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 5, Essendon Royals 4 Bundoora Utd 0, North City Lions 1 Whittlesea Stallions 3

Boys North 12 B: Essendon Royals 8 Moreland Wolves 0, Northcote City 1 Brunswick City 1, Epping City 1 Heidelberg Utd 1, Plenty Valley Lions 4 Meadow Park 0

Boys North 12 C: Bundoora Utd 4 Watsonia Heights 2, Brunswick Zebras 0 Fawkner 4, Hume Utd 3 Clifton Hill 0, Moreland City 0 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Moreland Utd 6 Mitchell Rangers 0

Boys North 12 D: Brunswick Zebras 0 Pascoe Vale 5, Yarra Jets FC 1 0 Sunshine Georgies 0, Broadmeadows Utd 0 DOC United FC 7,

Boys Nth 11 Ka Ye: Northcote City 0 Brunswick City 4, Hume Utd 0 Light Utd 5, Epping City 2 Bundoora Utd 1,

Boys Nth 11 Ka Bl: Lalor Utd 1 Preston Lions 5, Alphington 0 FC Birrarung 8, Essendon Royals 9 Heidelberg Utd 0, North City Lions 0 Brunswick Zebras 6

Boys Nth 11 Jo Or: Heidelberg Stars 3 Whittlesea Stallions 1, Lalor 1 Fawkner 2, Brunswick Zebras 7 Moreland City 0, Epping City 2 Diamond Valley Utd 1,

Boys Nth 11 Jo Red: Bundoora Utd 0 DOC United FC 3, E

South Melbourne		3 2 1 0 7 0 7	Boys South 15 B			Aspendale	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	Richmond		3 1 0 2 4 10 3	Riversdale		3 1 2 0 3 2 5	
Berwick City		3 2 1 0 6 2 7				Sandringham City	2 0 0 2 0 6 0	Glen Waverley		2 0 0 2 2 7 0	Glen Waverley		3 1 1 1 6 5 4	
Sandringham City		3 1 1 1 3 5 4	P W D L F APT			Beaumaris	3 0 0 3 1 15 0	North Caulfield			North Caulfield		3 1 1 1 4 3 4	
Monash City		3 0 2 1 1 3 2				Boys South 12 D			Boys East 16 C			Ashburton	3 1 1 1 2 7 4	
Oakleigh		3 0 1 2 2 8 1										Eastern Lions	3 1 0 2 4 3 3	
Dandenong Thunder		2 0 0 2 2 6 0										Mooroolbark	3 1 0 2 3 8 3	
Croydon City Arrows		2 0 0 2 0 5 0										Croydon City Arrows	2 0 0 2 2 5 0	
Morrington		3 0 0 3 1 10 0										Boronia	2 0 0 2 0 4 0	
Boys S/E 13 Super League												Boys East 12 A		
		P W D L F APT												P W D L F APT
South Eastern Piranhas		3 2 1 0 10 3 7												
Sandringham City		3 2 1 0 10 5 7												
Richmond		3 2 0 1 7 3 6												
South Melbourne		2 2 0 0 5 1 6												
Box Hill Inter		2 1 0 1 2 1 3												
Monash City		3 1 0 2 7 9 3												
FC Bulleen Lions		3 1 0 2 1 3 3												
Brighton		3 1 0 2 3 7 3												
Morrington		3 1 0 2 2 7 3												
Knox City		3 0 0 3 3 11 0												
Boys N/W 16 Super League														
		P W D L F APT												
Altona Magic		2 2 0 0 7 0 6												
Keilor Park		3 2 0 1 6 3 6												
Sunshine Heights		2 1 1 0 7 2 4												
Green Gully		2 1 1 0 2 1 4												
Sunshine Georgies		3 1 1 1 5 6 4												
Essendon Royals		1 1 0 0 2 0 3												
Whittlesea Stallions		3 1 0 2 2 3 3												
Preston Lions		2 0 1 1 2 3 1												
Altona East		1 0 0 1 0 5 0												
Melbourne Knights		3 0 0 3 1 11 0												
Boys N/W 15 Super League														
		P W D L F APT												
Hume City		3 3 0 0 11 4 9												
Essendon Royals		3 2 1 0 8 0 7												
N.T.C		2 2 0 0 10 1 6												
Melbourne Knights		2 1 1 0 4 1 4												
Altona East		1 1 0 0 3 0 3												
Keilor Park		3 1 0 2 6 5 3												
Brimbank Stallions		2 1 0 1 2 2 3												
Green Gully		3 1 0 2 5 7 3												
Whittlesea Stallions		3 1 0 2 2 14 3												
Epping City		3 0 0 3 1 9 0												
Brunswick City		3 0 0 3 2 11 0												
Boys N/W 14 Super League														
		P W D L F APT												
Melbourne Knights		3 2 1 0 9 2 7												
Keilor Park		2 2 0 0 11 3 6												
Brunswick Zebras		2 2 0 0 2 0 6												
Essendon Royals		2 1 1 0 6 4 4												
North City Lions		2 1 1 0 4 2 4												
Bundoora Utd		3 1 1 1 4 6 4												
Green Gully		2 0 1 1 1 2 1												
Whittlesea Stallions		3 0 1 2 3 10 1												
Gisborne		2 0 0 2 5 9 0												
Altona City		3 0 0 3 2 9 0												
Boys N/W 13 Super League														
		P W D L F APT												
Melbourne Knights		4 4 0 0 13 2 12												
Brunswick City		3 2 0 1 7 3 6												
Green Gully		3 2 0 1 3 3 6												
Light Utd		2 1 1 0 3 2 4												
Whittlesea Stallions		2 1 1 0 2 1 4												
GRFA		3 1 0 2 6 4 3												
N.T.C		2 1 0 1 4 4 3												
Epping City		2 1 0 1 2 7 3												
Keilor Park		2 0 0 2 1 3 0												
Hume City		2 0 0 2 2 7 0												
Hoppers Crossing		3 0 0 3 2 9 0												
Boys Metro 18 Blue														
		P W D L F APT												
Melbourne Phoenix		3 3 0 0 13 1 9												
Pascoe Vale		3 2 0 1 11 7 6												
St. Albans		3 1 1 1 12 6 4												
Cairnlea		2 1 1 0 8 6 4												
Oakleigh		3 1 1 1 7 8 4												
Altona East		2 1 0 1 4 7 3												
Ballarat & District SA		3 0 1 2 5 9 1												
Western Eagles		2 0 1 1 3 10 1												
Essendon Utd		3 0 1 2 3 12 1												
Boys Metro 18 Purple														
		P W D L F APT												
Heidelberg Utd		3 2 0 1 7 3 6												
Frankston Pines		2 2 0 0 5 2 6												
Oakleigh		2 2 0 0 5 2 6												
Richmond		3 1 1 1 7 7 4												
Sunshine Georgies		1 1 0 0 8 5 3												
Northcote City		2 1 0 1 2 3 3												
Bentleigh Greens		3 0 2 1 5 6 2												
Preston Lions		3 0 1 2 2 4 1												
Pascoe Vale		3 0 0 3 6 15 0												
Boys 18 South														
		P W D L F APT												
Dandenong City		3 3 0 0 26 2 9												
Berwick City		3 3 0 0 17 3 9												
Keysborough		1 1 0 9 4 4												
Baxter		2 1 1 0 3 2 4												
Casey Comets 1		2 1 0 1 9 3 3												
Langwarrin		2 1 0 1 2 2 3												
Bayside Knights FC		2 0 0 2 1 5 0												
Brandon Park		2 0 0 2 5 12 0												
Casey Comets 2		2 0 0 2 1 14 0												
Beaumaris		2 0 0 2 1 27 0												
Boys South 16 A														
		P W D L F APT												
Dandenong Thunder		3 3 0 0 13 2 9												
Brighton		3 2 0 1 14 7 6												
Dandenong City		2 2 0 0 10 6 6												
Sandringham City		3 2 0 1 8 5 6												
East Bentleigh		3 2 0 1 9 8 6												
Doveton		2 1 1 0 2 1 4												
Beaumaris		3 1 0 2 8 10 3												
Peninsula		3 0 1 2 3 7 1												
Berwick City		3 0 0 3 3 9 0												
Langwarrin		3 0 0 3 3 18 0												
Boys South 16 B														
		P W D L F APT												
Bentleigh Greens		3 3 0 0 15 4 9												
Springvale White Eagles		3 3 0 0 9 3 9												
Bayside Knights FC		3 2 0 1 23 5 6												
Carrum Utd		3 2 0 1 9 7 6												
Endeavour Utd		3 2 0 1 7 5 6												
Baxter		3 1 0 2 11 8 3												
Casey Comets		3 1 0 2 6 7 3												
Brighton		2 0 0 2 3 7 0												
James Cook FC		2 0 0 2 3 19 0												
Beaumaris		3 0 0 3 5 26 0												
Boys South 15 A														
		P W D L F APT												
Hampton Park Utd		3 3 0 0 14 2 9												
Brighton		3 2 0 1 10 3 6												
Endeavour Utd		2 2 0 0 5 3 6												
Bentleigh Greens		3 1 1 1 4 2 4												
Harrisfield Hurricanes		2 1 0 1 2 4 3												
Hampton		3 1 0 2 3 10 3												
Sandringham City		2 0 2 0 1 1 2												
Morrington		3 0 1 2 3 8 1												
Noble Park		3 0 0 3 3 12 0												
Boys South 14 B														
		P W D L F APT												
Dandenong City		3 3 0 0 8 0 9												
Endeavour Utd		2 2 0 0 9 2 6												
Bentleigh Greens		3 2 0 1 6 3 6												
Doveton		3 2 0 1 6 5 6												
Keysborough		1 1 0 0 8 1 3												
East Bentleigh		3 1 0 2 4 13 3												
Bye		0 0 0 0 0												
Beaumaris		2 0 0 2 0 5 0												
Berwick City		3 0 0 3 2 8 0												
Brighton		2 0 0 2 0 6 0												
Boys South 14 C														
		P W D L F APT												
Bentleigh Greens		3 3 0 0 8 1 9												

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By MJ Ali
King Of The Kids

BRUNSWICK RUE OPPORTUNITIES AT SYDENHAM

Sydenham Park 0
Brunswick City 0

Brunswick City trekked out to the vast expands of Keilor Lodge Reserve to take on ‘cellar dwellers’ Sydenham in a match that would see them regain top spot after Altona East’s loss to Thomastown the night before.

But it was not to be as City’s inability to convert in front of goal cost them even though they dominated for long periods in the game. The game as a spectacle was frustrating as the unevenness of the pitch prevented either team from playing attractive football.

Sydenham began quite well and got an early shot on target as Robert Taleski’s half volley was well held by Dimitropoulos in goal for Brunswick. Brunswick continued to apply the pressure and began getting on top in the middle of the park through Karas and Squillaciotti forging a good partnership.

Unfortunately for Brunswick the well organised defence of Sydenham led by Zoran Markovski dealt well with all crosses and their inability to get in behind the defence made their attacking moves quite predictable.

The solitary chance to get in behind the defence was created by Defeo in the 19’ as he beat his opponent down the left and whipped in a low cross in front of the face of goal only to see Stafrace’s flick goalward take a late bobble sending the ball over the bar.

It was clearly not his day as he was substituted in the 28’ when he came off with a hamstring strain. Sydenham were lucky not to go down to ten men when Dimovski was involved in an altercation with Sadik that referee George Lakrindis clearly did not see. Ciantar would have dearly loved a goal before the main break and after David Garisto completely misjudged Defeo’s corner to volley home a cross in front of goal it appeared the score would remain deadlocked.

To say Tony Ciantar was unhappy at half time would be an understatement. He demanded and even higher work rate from his charges knowing that the ageing list of

Sydenham Park would struggle if the tempo of the game got any quicker. And work they did as Brunswick completely dominated the second half in every aspect of the game.

Brunswick’s defence lead through excellent performances by Danos and Suesspeck repelled any attack and Squillaciotti began to weave his magic in the middle of the park. In fact his well hit free kick in the 60’ which just missed started the onslaught for the visitors. In the 62’ young substitute, Tsalkos, caught Sydenham’s defence square as he played David Garisto through only to see his teammate’s shot stopped by Sydenham’s custodian, Talevski, who came off his line and spread himself well.

Minutes later David Garisto again got free on the right to whip in a low cross only to see Defeo arrive fractionally late and miss another great opportunity. The game was destined for a draw when Defeo lobbed the advancing, Talevski, in the 74’ only to see the ball spin wickedly passed the post. Brunswick continued to pile on the pressure but the Sydenham boys worked hard to keep them out and as a result picked up their first point of the season.

Brunswick would clearly see this game

as two points dropped and will have to be more ruthless in front of goal as they take on Altona East next week in the match of the round as second plays third.

In the Reserves, a great effort to come from behind and draw this game 3-3 after trailing 3-1 showed the young Brunswick reserve team has strong character. Scorers were Cannizaro, Lecarros, Anastasiou.

Best: Suesspeck, G.Danos, Karas, Squillaciotti (Brunswick) - Markovski, Dimovski, Spiteri, Talevski (Sydenham).

Brunswick City: (Ciantar) Dimitropoulos, Danos, Dennis Sadik Suesspeck, A. Garisto Daniel Sadik , Squillaciotti, D. Garisto (Cicchiti 85’), Karas, Stafrace (Tsalkos 28’), G. Defeo

Sydenham Park: (Necevski) Talevski, Dimovski, Bogoevski, Markovski, Najdovski, Jovicic, Taleski, Cvetanovski (Trajkovski 65’), Spiteri, Stojanovski, Trpcevski

By Loui Simopoulos

State League Division NW 2

KNOX SHOW FIGHT

Knox City 1
Diamond Valley Utd 1

Knox City grabbed a late draw in a thrilling 1-1 draw with second placed Diamond Valley United at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday. The point moved Knox out of the bottom two but more importantly was a much improved performance on its last two dismal efforts.

This was a great game for the spectators as both sides asked and gave no quarter. End to end play, crunching tackles, the occasional confrontation and a referee that let everything go made this match a throw back to the way crowds used to enjoy the game.

Knox started the faster and Edgar and Nick Veljovic both went close with headers as they pressed high up the park. Valley were on the

back foot at this stage and suffered two quick blows when both Love and Raynes suffered hamstring injuries and had to be replaced.

It took Valley 20 minutes to get a shot on goal but they got into their stride and Minopoulos missed a good chance when he turned his defender but he dragged his shot wide with only Jorgensen to beat.

Jorgensen then made a good low save from Unwin during a spell of sustained Valley pressure.

The half finished with Peutherer volleying just wide after a great cross from Giannopoulos and Minopoulos missing the target again after a rebound fell his way.

Straight from the restart, Minopoulos looked dangerous as he carved his way through the defence but he failed to hit the target again from 20 metres.

It was then the visitors turn to defend as a despairing last ditch tackle foiled Nick Veljovic after a clever back heel from Peutherer. Then Kerr made a great run into the penalty

area but after beating three defenders the ball just ran away from him at the last minute.

Knox suffered its own injury problems when Nick Veljovic and Valadon had to be substituted with both appearing to suffer calf strains.

It was beginning to look as though the first goal was going to be decisive and midway through the half it came. Minopoulos was covered by two defenders close to the byeline but he managed to slip a delightful ball into the path of Hammer allowing him a clear run and he scored with an angled drive into the far corner of the net.

Knox now threw everything into attack. Pappastamatis in the Valley goal came for a cross and spilled the ball but Unwin was able to slash the ball clear before a Knox player could get to it. Then a Saunders cross eluded the keeper but Peutherer’s header went just wide.

With time running out and the Diamond Valley bench screaming at the referee for full

time one last ball was lofted into the Valley penalty area. It bobbed around for a bit before it fell to Giannopoulos who drove the ball home from 8 metres out to the delight of the home crowd.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, A. Jackson, A. Edgar, B. Karaga, C. Kerr, S. Barrero, J. Valadon (T. Saunders – 76th), N. Veljovic (C. Reid – 58th), S. Peutherer, S. Groom (D. Veljovic – 65th), N. Giannopoulos. Subs Not Used: M. Hoogendyk, C. Marshall.

Diamond Valley Utd: M. Papastamatis, B. Love (J. Konyit – 15th), A. Raynes (A. Savage – 30th), E. De Santis, K. Unwin, L. Minopoulos, S. Bubulj, E. Tsintzas, G. Davie, R. Lagana, A. Hammer (J. Pirano – 90th). Subs not used: A. Lagoulis, S. Pace.

By Bruce Darnell

State League Division SE 2

PRESIDENT’S LUNCH

SATURDAY 16th MAY - 1.00PM

“LUNCH WITH THE SOCCEROOS”

GUEST SPEAKERS
- MEHMET DURAKOVIC
- MIKE PETERSEN
- and BROOKSY AS M.C.

TICKETS ONLY \$20

2 - COURSE LUNCH

1.00pm RESERVES VS. KNOX CITY
3.00pm SENIORS VS. KNOX CITY

(RAFFLE PRIZES) (SPECIAL GIVEAWAYS)

DRINKS AT BAR PRICES - PRICE INCLUDES MATCH ENTRY
- BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL -

BOOK EARLY – PHONE NORM ON 0416 036 346
OR E-MAIL BRENDAN ON brendan.keogh@bt.konicaminolta.com.au
OR E-MAIL THE CLUB ON admin@easternlions.com.au



Eastern Lions S.C., Gardiners Reserve, Sixth Avenue, Burwood 3125
Melway Ref: 60 J8

GOALKEEPER COACHING

with DAVID COLES PORTSMOUTH FC English Premier League

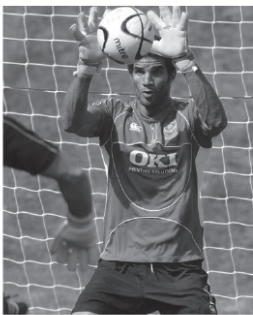
Premier Football Tuition has secured the services of DAVID COLES, the Portsmouth FC Senior Goalkeeper coach for a series of clinics and private coaching sessions in Melbourne and Geelong from the 2nd to 11th of June 2009.

DAVID COLES is one of the most respected Goalkeeper coaches in the English Premier League and brings with him a wealth of experience as well as currently working with the ENGLAND No 1 Goalkeeper DAVID JAMES (Portsmouth FC) and Antti Niemi (Southampton FC and Fulham FC).

A series of Full & Half day Clinics have been organized which can cater for: Junior and Senior / Male and Female / Basic to Advanced Goalkeepers, plus opportunities also exist for private, individual, school and club coaching sessions.



For more information
Contact Peter Zois on
0415 255 505
Email: premierfootballtuition@yahoo.com.au



www.premierfootballtuition.com



All past Preston Lions players, coaches, members, supporters and sponsors are invited to attend and celebrate the club's historic 50th Anniversary Dinner. This is a night not to be missed! Share the memories, honour the legends, reminisce with past greats and look back on the glorious achievements.

WHEN: Saturday 6th June, 2009
WHERE: Emerald Receptions, 213-215 Settlement Road, Thomastown, VIC 3074
TIME: 6:00pm for 6:30pm start
DRESS: Formal / Lounge Suit

TICKETS:
Adults = \$70 Per Person
Children (12 & under) = \$45 Per Child
Table Sponsor = \$600 (inc. Full Table of 10, Company Name and Logo on table)

Price includes 3-course meal & beverages. Plus live entertainment, guest speakers, highlights & interviews on the big screen, memorabilia auction, raffle and much more.

HOW TO ORDER TICKETS:
1. Pay by cash, cheque/money order or credit card by completing and returning the ticket order form available to download from www.prestonlions.com

2. Send an email to Preston.Lions.FC@gmail.com

3. By Phone:
Pece Siljanovski – 0425 821 634
Alex Sandev – 0414 965 248
Chris Terpos – 0419 305 556

NORTHCOTE HOLD FIRM

Greens Return To Winners List

After three weeks without a victory State League One, the Bentleigh Greens have finally reversed their recent poor form in round six, hitting back with a morale-boosting 1-0 win over the tenth placed Western Suburbs at Kingston Heath on Friday night.

Although the first half was no different from usual for the Greens, the difference came in the second half, when Jacob Quickenden scored the game's only goal to secure Bentleigh's first win since round two. Despite this lean run, the Greens jump up into second place on eleven points, while; worryingly for Suburbs, the loss sees them fall three places into tenth.

Northcote have held on to their position at the top of the ladder with a 1-1 draw with Clifton Hill at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Saturday afternoon. A scoreless first half raised the confidence within the Clifton Hill team of achieving a result, and with much hard work scored through Sam Tyrikos. Northcote however, having not been held scoreless this season, were always likely to score an equaliser, levelling through the ever-reliable Trent Rixon. The draw breaks a three game winning streak for City, yet they still have not lost in six games this season, ensuring they remain the league pacesetters for another week at least. Clifton Hill on the other hand, are still at the wrong end of the table, though they have risen one spot on last week.

Another side not to have lost a match in 2009, Pascoe Vale have been held to a goalless stalemate by an improving Langwarrin side at Hosken Reserve on Saturday. While this game did not fully showcase either side's attacking capabilities, it definitely proved the extent to which Langwarrin have improved since beginning the season with three straight losses, after being able to content well with the consistent Pascoe Vale, who now sit in third place



Chris Pope (left battles it out with Jim Archimandritis.

ahead of an important clash next week with the Bulleen Royals.

The Frankston Pines are still yet to find their maiden victory for the year after a 1-1 draw with the Southern Stars at Monterey Reserve on Saturday night. After more than 270 minutes without Frankston scoring a goal, another 45 minutes did not surprise a great deal in the crowd. Finally though, the Pines managed to find the back of the net through Matthew Morris-Thomas cancelling out the earlier second-half goal of the Southern Stars' Fatih Akdogan. Amazingly Morris-Thomas' goal was just Frankston's second goal for the season, going some distance to explaining their second-last placing on the ladder, while the Stars sit in ninth place thanks to the single point.

The only team below Frankston; the Springvale White Eagles also managed to secure a 1-1 draw during their game at Fawkner's CB Smith Reserve yesterday. In unseasonably sunny weather, the match began well with offence on both teams minds. With the half time score seeing both teams with one goal apiece courtesy of White Eagle Alan Mulcahy and the Blues' Frank Tramontana, it seemed certain that the second half would contain just as much attacking. While the endeavour was there, neither side seemed able to capitalise, leaving scores locked at 1-1 at the final whistle.

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photos by John Punshon



Adrian Chiappetta (Northcote City) launches into a full-blooded tackle on Daniel Malina (Clifton Hill).

RESULTS

Bentleigh Greens 1 (J Quickenden) Western Suburbs 0, Pascoe Vale 0 Langwarrin 0, Clifton Hill 1 (SG Tyrikos) Northcote City 1 (T Rixon), Frankston Pines 1 (M Morris-Thomas) Southern Stars 1 (F Akdogan), Fawkner Blues 1 (F Tramontana) Springvale White Eagles 1 (AF Mulcahy)

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northcote City	6	3	3	0	11	6	12
Bentleigh Green6	3	3	2	1	8	5	11
Pascoe Vale	6	2	4	0	4	1	10
Bulleen Royals	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
St Albans Saint	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
Langwarrin	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Clifton Hill	5	1	3	1	6	8	6
Fawkner Blues	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
Southern Stars	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Western Suburb6	1	2	3	6	8	5	
Frankston Pine	6	0	3	3	2	8	3
Springvale WE	6	0	2	4	7	13	2

ROUND 7 FIXTURES

Southern Stars v Langwarrin
Ross Reserve
Sat 16 May KO 3:00PM

Springvale WE v Frankston Pines
White Eagles Stadium
Sat 16 May KO 6:30PM

Fawkner Blues v Clifton Hill
CB Smith Reserve
Sun 17 May KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Northcote City
Ralph Reserve
Sun 17 May KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Bentleigh Greens
Churchill Reserve
Sun 17 May KO 3:00PM

Bulleen Royals v Pascoe Vale
Veneto Social Club
Mon 18 May KO 8:15PM

RESERVE DETAILS

Bentleigh Greens 0 Western Suburbs 0, Pascoe Vale 0 Langwarrin 1, Clifton Hill 1 Northcote City 2, Frankston Pines 2 Southern Stars 3, Fawkner Blues 2 Springvale White Eagles 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	6	5	0	1	18	4	15
Fawkner Blues	6	4	2	0	13	7	14
Bentleigh Green6	4	1	1	1	17	4	13
Western Suburb6	3	2	1	1	13	9	11
Pascoe Vale	6	2	1	3	12	12	7
Bulleen Royals	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Frankston Pines6	2	0	4	7	12	6	
Springvale	6	2	0	4	8	16	6
Northcote City	6	1	2	3	8	15	5
Southern Stars	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
Clifton Hill	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
St Albans Saint	4	0	1	3	6	13	1

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